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JEAN DARTÉS ODYSSEY

by

Louis A. Dartez

Jean Dartés was born April 8th, 1750 in his mother's hometown of Camblanes—a small suburb of Bordeaux, France. As was the custom in the 1700s, the bride married in her hometown. And, traditionally the wife returned to her parent's home for the birth of her children. This explains why Jean was born in Camblanes, but spent his childhood in Castres, a few kilometers away. An accompanying map of the Gironde Region on a following page shows the close proximity of Camblanes and Castres to each other and to Bordeaux. The marriage of Jean's parents, Pierre Dartés and Marie Garsaut took place on February 13, 1732 in Camblanes, France. The records in the "Mairie" (Mayor's office) indicates that Jean's sister Izabeau was born February 13, 1736. A sister named Marie was born December 9, 1738. There is a record of another sister with the same first name of Marie who died on October 13, 1748 at the age of two.

Numerous Dartés' are recorded in the older archives in Castres, France, but this family name is now extant. In the older records we find Dartés signatures affixed to official documents as the two Dartés signatures shown on the royal birth certificate on the following page. While there is no established connection here with Jean's family, the community was so small that there is a good possibility that all Dartés' living there were related.

In 1765, at the age of fifteen, Jean made the decision to enlist as a crew member on an ocean going vessel headed for the French colonies in America. Upon landing in the new world he yielded that job to indenture himself as a blacksmith apprentice in Natchitoches for a period of three years. It remains to speculation whether his parents were still living. He might have left because of the economic distress France was experiencing—it could have been for political reasons—or merely his spirit of adventure and his hope of making a fortune in the new colonies. France did have flourishing colonies along the Mississippi River, especially at Kaskaskia near Fort Chartres in the Illinois country.

But it was an inopportune time for Jean to join his countrymen in lower Louisiana. France and England had just concluded interminable wars on both continents. The 1763 Treaty of Paris which ended the Seven Year War compelled France to pay a heavy price. She lost all her possessions in North America, except for the tiny islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon to the south of Newfoundland, and the western half of Louisiana. The eastern half was ceded to her ally, Spain, to compensate her for the loss of Florida. Poverty, famine and fever were the normal conditions in lower Louisiana. It was difficult for the colonists, most of whom had been lured over by glittering misrepresentations to adjust to the hard conditions of the developing colony.



LA PLACE DU VIEUX MARCHÉ DE BORDEAUX EN 1793,
AVANT LA DÉMOLITION DU PILORI ET DE LA CUE
RECONSTITUTION D'APRÈS DES DOCUMENTS DE L'ÉPOQUE



Photo of Gamouillaau House where Jean Darteis was born in Camblanes, France as it looked in 1975. The house has a long history—at one time it was converted to a buggy repair shop, at another time a saloon. In 1990 a young widow had purchased the property and was completely gutting it and was making it into a fine town house.



Present day map of Bordeaux showing the Garonne River, Camblanes, approximately 12 kilometers from Bordeaux; and Castres, approximately 22 kilometers from Bordeaux.



Jean's parents Pierre Darteis and Marie Garssut were married here in Camblanes church



Jean and his parents attended this church St Martin of Castres, Castres, France



*Camblanes "Mama"
Mayor's office*



*Castres "Mama"
Mayor's office*

Birth in Camblanes

Below is a reproduction of the original baptismal record of Jean DARTHES located in the Bordeaux Regional Archives, Gironde (Camblesnes). For better readability please find typeset French records and English translation of both Jean DARTHES' baptism and Marie DARTÉS burial record.

Council app. sent. 1890. 1891. 1892. 1893. 1894. 1895. 1896. 1897. 1898. 1899. 1900. 1901. 1902. 1903. 1904. 1905. 1906. 1907. 1908. 1909. 1910. 1911. 1912. 1913. 1914. 1915. 1916. 1917. 1918. 1919. 1920. 1921. 1922. 1923. 1924. 1925. 1926. 1927. 1928. 1929. 1930. 1931. 1932. 1933. 1934. 1935. 1936. 1937. 1938. 1939. 1940. 1941. 1942. 1943. 1944. 1945. 1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962. 1963. 1964. 1965. 1966. 1967. 1968. 1969. 1970. 1971. 1972. 1973. 1974. 1975. 1976. 1977. 1978. 1979. 1980. 1981. 1982. 1983. 1984. 1985. 1986. 1987. 1988. 1989. 1990. 1991. 1992. 1993. 1994. 1995. 1996. 1997. 1998. 1999. 2000. 2001. 2002. 2003. 2004. 2005. 2006. 2007. 2008. 2009. 2010. 2011. 2012. 2013. 2014. 2015. 2016. 2017. 2018. 2019. 2020. 2021. 2022. 2023. 2024. 2025. 2026. 2027. 2028. 2029. 2030. 2031. 2032. 2033. 2034. 2035. 2036. 2037. 2038. 2039. 2040. 2041. 2042. 2043. 2044. 2045. 2046. 2047. 2048. 2049. 2050. 2051. 2052. 2053. 2054. 2055. 2056. 2057. 2058. 2059. 2060. 2061. 2062. 2063. 2064. 2065. 2066. 2067. 2068. 2069. 2070. 2071. 2072. 2073. 2074. 2075. 2076. 2077. 2078. 2079. 2080. 2081. 2082. 2083. 2084. 2085. 2086. 2087. 2088. 2089. 2090. 2091. 2092. 2093. 2094. 2095. 2096. 2097. 2098. 2099. 2100. 2101. 2102. 2103. 2104. 2105. 2106. 2107. 2108. 2109. 2110. 2111. 2112. 2113. 2114. 2115. 2116. 2117. 2118. 2119. 2120. 2121. 2122. 2123. 2124. 2125. 2126. 2127. 2128. 2129. 2130. 2131. 2132. 2133. 2134. 2135. 2136. 2137. 2138. 2139. 2140. 2141. 2142. 2143. 2144. 2145. 2146. 2147. 2148. 2149. 2150. 2151. 2152. 2153. 2154. 2155. 2156. 2157. 2158. 2159. 2160. 2161. 2162. 2163. 2164. 2165. 2166. 2167. 2168. 2169. 2170. 2171. 2172. 2173. 2174. 2175. 2176. 2177. 2178. 2179. 2180. 2181. 2182. 2183. 2184. 2185. 2186. 2187. 2188. 2189. 2190. 2191. 2192. 2193. 2194. 2195. 2196. 2197. 2198. 2199. 2200. 2201. 2202. 2203. 2204. 2205. 2206. 2207. 2208. 2209. 2210. 2211. 2212. 2213. 2214. 2215. 2216. 2217. 2218. 2219. 2220. 2221. 2222. 2223. 2224. 2225. 2226. 2227. 2228. 2229. 2230. 2231. 2232. 2233. 2234. 2235. 2236. 2237. 2238. 2239. 2240. 2241. 2242. 2243. 2244. 2245. 2246. 2247. 2248. 2249. 2250. 2251. 2252. 2253. 2254. 2255. 2256. 2257. 2258. 2259. 2260. 2261. 2262. 2263. 2264. 2265. 2266. 2267. 2268. 2269. 2270. 2271. 2272. 2273. 2274. 2275. 2276. 2277. 2278. 2279. 2280. 2281. 2282. 2283. 2284. 2285. 2286. 2287. 2288. 2289. 2290. 2291. 2292. 2293. 2294. 2295. 2296. 2297. 2298. 2299. 2300. 2301. 2302. 2303. 2304. 2305. 2306. 2307. 2308. 2309. 2310. 2311. 2312. 2313. 2314. 2315. 2316. 2317. 2318. 2319. 2320. 2321. 2322. 2323. 2324. 2325. 2326. 2327. 2328. 2329. 2330. 2331. 2332. 2333. 2334. 2335. 2336. 2337. 2338. 2339. 2340. 2341. 2342. 2343. 2344. 2345. 2346. 2347. 2348. 2349. 2350. 2351. 2352. 2353. 2354. 2355. 2356. 2357. 2358. 2359. 2360. 2361. 2362. 2363. 2364. 2365. 2366. 2367. 2368. 2369. 2370. 2371. 2372. 2373. 2374. 2375. 2376. 2377. 2378. 2379. 2380. 2381. 2382. 2383. 2384. 2385. 2386. 2387. 2388. 2389. 2390. 2391. 2392. 2393. 2394. 2395. 2396. 2397. 2398. 2399. 2400. 2401. 2402. 2403. 2404. 2405. 2406. 2407. 2408. 2409. 2410. 2411. 2412. 2413. 2414. 2415. 2416. 2417. 2418. 2419. 2420. 2421. 2422. 2423. 2424. 2425. 2426. 2427. 2428. 2429. 2430. 2431. 2432. 2433. 2434. 2435. 2436. 2437. 2438. 2439. 2440. 2441. 2442. 2443. 2444. 2445. 2446. 2447. 2448. 2449. 2450. 2451. 2452. 2453. 2454. 2455. 2456. 2457. 2458. 2459. 2460. 2461. 2462. 2463. 2464. 2465. 2466. 2467. 2468. 2469. 2470. 2471. 2472. 2473. 2474. 2475. 2476. 2477. 2478. 2479. 2480. 2481. 2482. 2483. 2484. 2485. 2486. 2487. 2488. 2489. 2490. 2491. 2492. 2493. 2494. 2495. 2496. 2497. 2498. 2499. 2500. 2501. 2502. 2503. 2504. 2505. 2506. 2507. 2508. 2509. 2510. 2511. 2512. 2513. 2514. 2515. 2516. 2517. 2518. 2519. 2520. 2521. 2522. 2523. 2524. 2525. 2526. 2527. 2528. 2529. 2530. 2531. 2532. 2533. 2534. 2535. 2536. 2537. 2538. 2539. 2540. 2541. 2542. 2543. 2544. 2545. 2546. 2547. 2548. 2549. 2550. 2551. 2552. 2553. 2554. 2555. 2556. 2557. 2558. 2559. 2560. 2561. 2562. 2563. 2564. 2565. 2566. 2567. 2568. 2569. 2570.

French Record

Bapt(ême) de Jean DARTHES—L'an mil sept cents cinquante le huitième du mois d'avril a été baptisé Jean Darthes nay [ne] la veille fils naturel et légitime de Pierre Darthes et de Marie Garsaut ses père et mère A été parrain Jean Serbon, marraine Antoinette Garsaut de la paroisse de Quinsac. Temoins Pierre Darthes, Joechim Herviaux qui a signé avec le marraine.

(Signé:) Dulau Vicaire

Toinette Garsaut, marraine
Joachim Herviaux

English Translation

Baptism of Jean DARTHES—the year 1750, the 18th of April was baptised Jeen Darthes born previous day, natural and legitimate son of Pierre Darthes and Marie Garsaut his father and mother. Godfather Jean Serbon, and godmother Antoinette Garsaut of the parish of Quinsac. Witness: Pierre Darthes, Joachim Herviaux who herewith signs with the godmother.

[Signed:] Dulau Vicare

Toinette Gersaut, Godmother
Joachim Herviaux

French Record

Sepulture de Marie DARTES—L'an 1748 le 13 du mois d'Octobre a été enseveli dans le cimetière de la présente paroisse Marie DARTES décédée la veille dans la maison appelée de Garnouilleau, fille naturelle et légitime de Pierre DARTES fet de Marie GASSAUT [GASTAUT] ses père et mère, agée d'environ deux ans.

English Translation

Burial of Marie DARTÈS—the year 1748, the 13 October was buried in the cemetery of the present parish, Marie DARTÈS deceased the previous day in the house named Gamouilleau, the natural and legitimate daughter of Pierre DARTÈS and of Marie GAS-SAUT (GASTAUT) her father and mother, age 2 years.

[illegible]

Two Dantès' witness a royal baptism, Castres, France, 1735

Apprentice in Natchitoches

An entry in book entitled "Sixain" by G. Porte-Bobinski documents Jean's apprenticeship to a blacksmith in Natchitoches in 1765. The original indenture agreement dated 18th September 1765, signed by Jean-Dartés and blacksmith Jacques Nagle is on file at the Natchitoches Courthouse (See reproduction below). Trained blacksmiths at that time were looked upon as tradesmen and artisans who learned to make everything from candle holders, to door locks, iron tools and implements. Unfortunately Jacques Nagle lived but a short time after this contract was entered into. The records indicate that Nagle's wife was widowed several months after Jean began his apprenticeship. She remarried a Francois Carles. We can assume that Jean Dartés' contract lapsed at the time of Jacques Nagle's death.

Translation of Document

Before me, notary and clerk of court of the Natchitoches Post here present in person the named Jacques Nagle, blacksmith and inhabitant of Natchitoches, and Jean Dartés, son of Pierre Dartés, vineyard worker, living in the Castres area on the border of the river near Bordeaux, (?) from the vessel (?) from Bordeaux, commanded by Sieur Jaraud hereby agrees to (?) be it known that the said Jacques Nagle promises to engage himself to instruct in the Christian religion and see that he learns to read and write, maintain and instruct him as one of his own children and teach all work relating to blacksmithing as much as will be possible to the said Jean Dartés, and on his part promises to so engage himself during a period of three years consecutive with the said Nagle, and will be submissive and obedient in all things concerning the said work, observing that should the said Dartés fall sick, the said Nagle would be obliged to see that he should be treated as he would himself, and the said Dartés will permit the said Nagle to chastise and punish him in case it becomes (?) by liberty and to be obedient in other things which might (?) of chastisement that are conventional. (?) the said parties hereby sign with their ordinary mark in the presence of Sieur Francois Roujou and Jean Baptiste Prudhomme, witnesses who hereby sign with me at Natchitoches the 18th of September, in the year One Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Five.

As a Single Man

Jean is next mentioned in the Attakapas Post census of 1771 living in a household of five bachelors—the Grevembergs, Louis Grevemberg, 36; Augustin, 26; Jean Baptiste Grevemberg, 25; Francois Grevemberg, 22; Barthelemi Grevemberg, 17; JEAN DARTÉS, 19; a Baptiste Peigneur, 45; Jean Baptiste Andrieu, 56; negroes ages 26, 28, 30, 40, 10; negresses ages 35, 27, 6; mulatto age 15; 300 cattle, 60 horses, 1½ lieu with title.

The Grevemberg family has a very interesting history in the Attakapas area. They were among the first families to have their cattle brand recorded in the Brand Book in St. Martinville.

Marriage to Pelagie Provost

The book entitled "Southwest Louisiana Families" by Winston DeVille includes the May, 1777 census records of Attakapas and Opelousas Posts. Jean Dartés is listed here as married to Pelagie Provost, age 20. Pelagie was born in the Illinois country and spent her childhood in Kaskaskia. This was near Fort Chartres on the Mississippi River approximately 65 miles southeast of present day St. Louis.

In the same book we learn that Pelagie's mother, Marie Francoise Quebedeaux formerly of Ft. Chartres in the Illinois country, was widowed at age 50. She was living with her children Nicholas, 25; Louis, 15; Henry, 9. Evidently Pelagie's father died between 1774 and 1777 because the 1774 census of the Attakapas Post lists her father Nicholas Provost (dit Blondin) and his wife Marie Francoise Quebedeaux and all of their children living in the area.

Pelagie as a Girl in Illinois Country

The following information was derived from three books—"The Village of Chartres in Colonial Illinois 1720-1765" by Brown-Dean, from "An Atlas of Louisiana Surnames of French and Spanish Origin" by Robert C. West and "Kaskaskia Under the French Regime" by Natalie Mare Belting.

Nicholas Provost (dit Blondin), widower of Marie Therese Kiermer, dwelling at the Prairie of St. Philippe married Marie Francois Quebedeaux on July 27, 1745. Nicholas Provost was the son of Claude Provost (Paris, France) and Marie-Jeanne Boulogne. Marie Francoise Quebedeaux, was the daughter of Joseph Quebedeaux and Marianne Antoine Beau.

Nicholas Provost was in Illinois as early as 1736, for on March 24 of that year he was granted three arpents of land at St. Philippe (American State Papers, Public Lands, II) St. Philippe was located four miles from Ft. Chartres and approximately 65 miles SE of St. Louis on the Illinois side of the Mississippi. (See map)

St. Louis, 65 miles NW



The first convoy ascending the Mississippi to the Illinois country in the summer of 1718 carried the new officials of the province, Pierre Deque, Sieur de Boisbriant, a Canadian forty-seven years old, who had come to Louisiana in 1700 with his cousin, Iberville.

The first Fort de Chartres was built upriver of Kaskaskia in 1721; the officers and troops were lodged with the habitants in the fort. Six years later the Mississippi flood waters entirely destroyed the fort. A second fort was built and fell to ruin by 1732.

A new stone fort named Fort de Chartres was built farther inland in 1753. The location was about four miles from the Renault concession at St. Philippe. It was finished in 1756 at a cost of five million livres.

At Fort de Chartres everyday life was much the same as it had been in the Seventeenth century France. The habitant was content to live as his father had lived, to hunt and trap as they had in the north country, to cultivate the fertile bottom land with a primitive plow, to work the lead mines with shovel and pick, and at the end of the day, to gossip on the porch, to dance, or to have a mug of rum at the tavern.

Class distinctions were mostly theoretical and little distinction was drawn between the military officers, some of whom were of noble birth, and the habitants. Few persons came to Kaskaskia, Fort de Chartres, St. Philype already well-to-do. A considerable number prospered from fur trading and the raising of wheat. The towns became a community of merchants and traders who supplied lower Louisiana with flour, meat, and bear oil. The colony was known as the breadbasket of New Orleans.

Their houses varied little in style of architecture, and until the latter days of the French regime the home of the wealthiest merchant looked much like the home of the poorest *voyageur*. The kitchen was the center of family life as it had been in Europe. It was generally the only room that was heated unless the chimney was a double one in the middle of the house. On the hearth under the huge mantle of the fireplace stood the iron firedogs with their curved heads, the indispensable pot hook, and the spit. Arranged nearby were the iron grill, the frying pans and pipkins, the copper and iron boilers and cauldrons.

The most cherished piece of furniture in the house was the bed. Frequently it was the only dowry of the Illinois bride, and the marriage contract carefully assured its ownership to the survivor of the union. Six feet or more square, the bed was furnished with a straw mattress and a thick feather bed, and curtained with hanging of green or red serge. Buffalo hides and coarse wool blankets served for covers. The children of the household slept on cots, three or four in a large bed.

In 1763, by the Treaty of Paris, the area east of the Mississippi was surrendered to the British, although the troops themselves did not reach Fort de Chartres until 1765. As the British occupation approached, most of the people in nouvelle Chartres and St. Philype sold their land and moved away. Some dismantled their log houses, lashed them together, and floated them down the Mississippi.

Nicholas Provost and Marie Francoise Quebedeaux and their children left the Illinois country and settled in the Attakapas area between the years 1760 and 1770. Nicholas and his family were listed in the 1774 census of Attakapas, and by the time of the 1777 census Nicholas was dead. His widow and their children were still living in Attakapas, close to her son-in-law Jean Dartés and his wife Pelagie Provost. It is interesting to note that Marie Francoise's brother Charles Quebedeaux (Pelagie's uncle) became the progenitor of all the Quebedeaux's who now live in Louisiana and southeastern Texas. Charles Quebedeaux settled on False River in Pointe Coupee, in 1776 and married Marie-Catherine Recuron, a native of the area.

Pelagie's brother Nicholas Provost born ca. 1743 emigrated to Louisiana and married Marie Jeanne Prevost of Point Coupee parish, the daughter of Joseph Prevost and Jeanetta Dublin on April 1, 1785. Upon Nicholas's death September 12, 1816 the land owned was well over 1788 acres, encompassing the entire town of Jeanerette with a lot of extra land to spare. At one time there was a possibility of calling the town, Provostville.

Start of Family

In succeeding research we find in the book entitled "Opelousas Post" by Gladys DeVillier, that Jean and Pelagie's first child Julia was baptised April 23, 1780 at the age of 3 months. The couple eventually had eleven children: Julia baptised 23 Apr 1780; Marie Claire born 1781; Sebastienne baptised 9 Nov 1787 at age 3 yrs. and 3 mos.; Jean Pierre baptised 9 Nov. 1787 at age 2 mos.; Pelagie baptised 19 June 1795; Josephine Ponponne baptised 19 June 1795 at age 4 yrs.; Pierre baptised 19 June 1795 at age 2 yrs.; Eugenie baptised 19 June 1795 at age 1 mo.; Celeste born ca. 1780, Alexandre born 1 June 1798, and Eugenie Frederick born 7 May 1802.

Acquisition of Property

Land Records of the Attakapas District Volume 1

The Attakapas Domesday Book

"Land Grants, Claims and Confirmations in the Attakapas District, 1764-1826" by Glen R. Conrad states that Township 14 South, Range 9 East, Section 62 — Dartesse, Jean, heirs of. Claim founded on an order of survey in favor of Dartesse, dated Dec. 30, 1793. Tract was 10 × 40 on "both sides of a mount" near the Bayou Cassine (N). De La Chaise, Honore, testified on April 28, 1814, that Jean Dartesse had inhabited and cultivated the land.

Translation of Documents in Claim No. 74 Petition for land by Jean Darte, Attakapas August 25, 1775, Granted 1 April 1777 by Gov. Bernardo de Galvez

Humbly beseecheth, Jean Darte Inhabitant of Attakapas, stating, that having no establishment he would be willing to form one at Attakapas if you would be pleased, Sir, to grant him 12 arpents of land front by 42 in depth, in the place commonly called the Grand Anse bounded on one side by the land of Pierre Nezat and on the other side by that of Mr. Fusilier de la Claire, the Petitioner will prey [xca] Attakapas 25 August, 1775.

/s/ Ducrest for John Darte

The land demanded by the Petitioner belongs to the King's Domain.

Attakapas this 24 August 1775.

Chev. de Clouet

New Orleans 1st April 1777 — The Commandant Mr. Declouet will establish the party upon the 12 arpents of land front by 42 in depth in the place solicited for being vacant and not injuring the neighbors and he will fix the boundaries and limits which proceedings he will extend in continuation by signing with the aforementioned persons and will remit this writing to me in order to provide a title in —[form].

Galvez

By virtue of the order of His Highness and B. de Galvez, Governor General of the Province, dated the 1st April 1777, the civil & military commandant of the Post of Attakapas have surveyed a tract of land of 12 arpents front with the depth of twenty arpents in the Prairie and 20 others in the woods, for Jean Darte, bounded on one side by Mr. Fusilier and on the other side by Mr. Nezat, where we have caused two boundaries to be planted in presence of the proprietor and the neighbors who have signed the same with us commandant this — November 1777.

Pierre Nezat, Perrot in the absence of Mr. Fusilier, Jean Dartese.

Le Chev de Clouet

Township 8 South, Range 5 East (in the Attakapas District)



Jean Darte claimed Tract 107 on August 24, 1775.

Don Bernerdo de Gelvez, Commandant

Having seen the foregoing proceedings had by the Commandant of Opelousas Mr. Declouet, upon the [possession] which he has given to Jean Dartesse of 12 arpents of land front by 20 in depth and in the place stated, bounded on one side by Dn Gabriel Fusillier, and on the other side by the lands of Pierre Nazat, and acknowledging himself to be regulated by the concession of the aforementioned neighbors and having nothing to reclaim therein have assented to the same, and have given their existence (according to law) in the said proceedings and by approving thereof as we now approve of the same; — using the power which the King has delegated to us we authorize in his own name the said Jean Dartes to have and hold the approximate 12 arpents front by 20 in depth and to dispose there [? and of the usufruct] thereof as of his own property, and to govern himself by the said proceedings and the orders for regulating the same. — Given under our seal at &ca &ca in New Orleans this 5th March 1778.

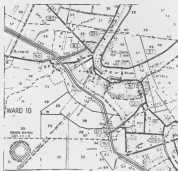
*Don Bernerdo de Gelvez
/s/ By His Excellency Commandant
Joseph Fouché*

The Col. Comm. of Attak. and app: doth hereby certify that the above titles belong to Chevalier De'omme in exchange for his land et Nez Piqué with his cousin Mr. Declouet Jr. who in return has ceded to us that of the boundanes of the family of Prevost elies (Blondein) the first and to which I give up my right having belonged to us by sale from Mr. Latioleis to whom Jean Dartese had sold it. The present will serve as well in Law as otherwise.

Attakapas this 15 June 1786

(signed) Chev de Clouet

Township 14 South, Range 9 East



A certificate issued by the U.S. government 12/30/1815 to heirs of Jean Dartés land claim founded on an order of survey dated 12/30/1793, in favor of Jean Dartés. The claim was for a tract of land 10 x 40 (660 41 acres) near Bayou Cassine.

Duty in the Attakapas Militia

Jean Dartés did duty in the Attakapas militia and is listed in several census enumerations from the time he was 19 years old. The 1792 General Census of the Militia of Attakapas lists Jean Dartés-Creole-42, infantryman (fusillier).

Cattle Raising in Opelousas and Attakapas Districts

Quoting from Mary Elizabeth Sanders' book entitled "Records of Attakapas District, La. — 1739-1811" she states:

"When the Acadians began to arrive in the Attakapas region, the Commandant at St. Martinville, Dauterlieve, induced them to start raising cattle beginning with the domesticated descendants of the early horned cattle from Mexico which were found here. The Acadians had engaged in cattle raising in Canada, and they rapidly developed the industry here. By the time of the Louisiana Purchase it was a large industry, and brands were of necessity registered in the courthouses.

"In 1824 the state of Louisiana established a Branding Commission to prevent confusion as to brands, comprised of the Attakapas and Opelousas districts solely. Branding officials were authorized to index the brands then existing in the courthouses. That index was the basis for the Brand Book for Opelousas and Attakapas Districts. Future registrations were added to the book

until 1888, when a second book was begun. The State Branding Commission was established in 1944 and is still in existence.

"... for those persons residing in Attakapas County, or St. Martin Parish, having brands registered through the year 1811, the person's name is shown, along with the year in which the registration was made and the page in the book where the brand was registered. In cases where an arabic figure appears in parenthesis behind the page number, that figure is an indication that the name appears that number of times on the page.

"The exact date of registration as well as the brand itself is given in the book."

Jean Dartés' brand is recorded as shown on right.

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Succession of Jean Dartés

Excerpt from Succession No. 61 located in the St. Martinville, La. Parish Courthouse, St. Martinville, La.

Auction Sale August 1, 1809

Vente à l'essai des biens & effets de Jean Dartesse, défunt à l'habitation du dit défunt 1er Aout 1809 --- bries à un an (?) deuse ans de terre avec censement de la famille du défunt

<u>Lots</u>	<u>Articles</u>	<u>Acquteurs</u>	<u>Cauton</u>	<u>Prix</u> Pavon Escrin
1	Une fusée deux coups	Stephen Barabin	Pierre Dubois	22 - 4
2	Une fusée à un coup	Stephen Barabin	Pierre Dubois	26 - 9
3	Deux charue, une seles & deux coutres	Jacob Garrette	Col. Carlin	7 - 0
4	Outils d'habitant, une sae, & ca	Onore Hebert	Col. Carlin	6 - 0
5	Couteux gaspartout coudre & ca	Pierre Dubois	And Hebert	10 - 4
6	verloppe emminette	J B Henry	L. Guidrie	2 - 0
7	3 poches	Desmarts fils	Frm Moore	3 - 4
8	Quelques anettes fourchettes, marteau bouteilles vuides à repaiser	Pierre Dubois	Alex Hebert	2 - 2
9	Une carabine	Dartesse	(not sold)	
10	Des chaudieres	Eng. Senet	P. Dubois	8 - 0
11	Deux autres chaudieres	Stephen Barabin	P. Dubois	9 - 0
12	Une grande chaudiere	J P. D'artesse	P Dubois	11 - 0
13	Une meulle	Isac Reed	Biggs	5 - 6
14	Deux vieilles haches	Honore Carlin	P. Dubois	1 - 5
15	Moulin à grue	J P. D'artesse		17 - 0
16	Une negresse, Jeanne du 20 ans, avec son enfant de huit mois	And. Hebert		929 - 0
17	Un lit de plume, un matelas & ca oreiller	(This is a portion page 1 of a document comprising 53 pages, some of which are hard to read)		
18	Quarante sept livres de plumes			

Tutorship for Minor Children

On August 26, 1809 there was held a family meeting regarding the estate of Jean Dartés to appoint an administrator and tutor for the minors. Present at this meeting were:

Pierre Dubois (Husband of Julia Dartés, age 29)
 Andres Suire (Husband of Marie Claire Dartés, age 28)
 Francois Guidry (2nd Husband of Celeste Dartés, age 27)
 Jean Pierre Dartesse, (age 22)
 Francois Marceau (Husband of Pelagie Dartés, age 19)
 Josephine Ponponne Dartesse, (age 18)

Minors:

Pierre	16
Eugenie	14
Alexandre	11
Eugenie	7

As a result of this meeting, Pierre Dubois was appointed administrator of the estate and he was to arrange for tutorship of the minor children.

Descendants of

Jean DARTÉS & Pelagie PROVOST

Progenitors of the United States Dartés [Dartez] line

(Researched by Barbara A. Dartez)

The name Dartés (currently Dartez) was first introduced in this country with the migration of Jean Dartés from France in 1765. The genealogy following traces the proliferation of the name through five generations beginning in 1765 to 1904.

The source of this information is thirty-five volumes of "Southwest Louisiana Records" by Rev. Donald Hebert. These volumes compile all civil and church records for thirteen parishes in Southwest Louisiana relating to births, marriages and deaths for the period 1756 through 1904. Please note that each entry ends with a reference number in parenthesis. These numbers refer to the applicable one of Rev. Donald Hebert's volumes where the information was obtained.

- I. Juliette DARTÉS (Jean & Pelagie PROVOST) bt. 23 Apr 1780 (1) m. 24 Apr 1797, Pierre DUBOIS (2)
- II. Marie Claire DARTÉS (Jean & Pelagie PROVOST) b. 15 Jun 1782 (1) 1st m. 23 Sep 1799, Andre SUIR (1), 2nd m. 26 NOV 1823 Hurbín SCHNEIDER (2)
- III. Celeste DARTÉS (Jean & Pelagie PROVOST) 1st m. 19 Jun 1800 Louis THIBAUDAU 2nd m. 21 Nov 1808 Francois GUIDRY (1)
- IV. Sebastienne DARTÉS (Jean & Pelagie PROVOST) bt. 9 Nov. 1787 at age 3 yrs & 3 mths (1)
- V. Jean Pierre DARTÉS (Jean & Pelagie PROVOST) bt. 9 Nov. 1787 (1) 1st m. 28 Aug 1807 Victoire GUIDRY (1) 2nd m. 16 Nov 1830 Eugenie MARCEAUX (2)
 - A. Pelagie Aimee DARTÉS (Jean Pierre & Victoire GUIDRY) b. 4 Feb 1809 (1) m. 11 Jan 1825 Francois HEBERT (2)
 - B. Jean Pierre DARTÉS (Jean Pierre & Victoire GUIDRY) b. 6 Oct 1810 (1) m. 7 Feb 1831 Marie Carmelite MOUTON (3)
 1. Jean Meance DARTÉS (Jean Pierre & Marie Carmelite MOUTON) bt. 12 May 1834 (3) m. Marie Amelia HEBERT (24)
 - a. Carmelite DARTÉS (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) b. 3 Apr 1854 (5) m. 18 Nov 1872 Antoine SAVOIE (10)
 - b. Aurelia DARTÉS (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) b. 15 Oct 1855 (6) m. 27 Jan 1873 Hippolite SAVOY (11)
 - c. Marie Denise DARTÉS (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) b. 17 Mar 1856 (6)
 - d. Emilie DARTÉS (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) b. 11 Aug 1857 (6) m. 28 Oct 1878 Aloide STOUT (13)

- e. Emilia DARTES (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) b. 8 Jan 1860 (6)
- f. Elise DARTÈS (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) b. 17 Jan 1863 (7)
- g. Adenise DARTÈS (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) b. ca. 1863 (15) m. 28 Feb. 1881 Jules BOURQUE (15)
- h. Jules DARTÈS (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) b. 12 Apr 1866 (8) m. 30 Jun 1885 Mene TRAHAN (17)
- i. Julia DARTÈS (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) b. 5 Feb 1870 (9) m. Feb 1887 Adrien SELLERS (18)
- j. Elodie DARTÈS (Jean Meance & Mene Amelia HEBERT) b. 3 Jul 1872 (10) m. 10 Feb 1890 Ciemile HEBERT (21)
- k. Aurelie (Aurelian) DARTÈS (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) b. 17 Oct 1873 (11) m. 4 Apr 1894 Georgiana CHAMPAGNE (25)
- l. Adrien DARTÈS (Jean Meance & Marie Amelia HEBERT) (13)
2. Mene Emra DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & Mene Marguerite Carmelite MOUTON) bt. 12 May 1834 (3)
3. Clementine DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & Marie Marguerite Carmelite MOUTON) bt. 6 Dec 1835 (3)
1st m. 10 Nov 1854 Florian LUGUETTE (5)
4. Emeline DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & Marie Marguerite Carmelite MOUTON) bt. 17 Dec 1837 (3) 1st m. 28 Feb 1854 Edgard BOUDREAU (5). 2nd m. 28 Jun 1858 Edgard THIBAUT (6)
5. Melite DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & Mene Marguerite Carmelite MOUTON) bt. 27 Apr 1839 (3)
6. Jean Pierre DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & Marie Marguerite Carmelite MOUTON) b. 27 May 1842 (4) 1st m. Marie Marguerite SELLERS (7) 2nd m. Mathilde . . . ?
a. Mathilde DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 1st wife Marie Marguerite SELLERS) b. Dec 1862 (7) m. Cleophe LALANDE
b. Jean DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 1st wife Marie Marguerite SELLERS) b. 10 May 1866 (8)
1st m. 17 June 1885 Adeline SIMON (17) (58) 2nd m. Eve SONNIER
c. Marie Lovignia (Larine) DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 1st wife Marie Marguerite SELLERS) b. 15 Jan 1868 (8)
m. 16 Jan 1888 Joseph LALANDE (19)
d. Aspasie DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 1st wife Marie Marguerite SELLERS) b. 3 Feb 1870 (9) m. 23 Sep 1889 Valmont GUIDRY (20)
- e. Therzile DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 1st wife Marie Marguerite SELLERS) b. 19 Apr 1872 (10)
- f. Parfait Arcade DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 1st wife Marie Marguerite SELLERS) b. 18 Apr 1874 (11) Apr 1877
m. Victoria TRAHAN (26)
- g. Carmelite DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 1st wife Marie Marguerite SELLERS) b. 15 Mar 1878 (12) m. Francois DUBOIS
- h. Remy DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 1st wife Marie Marguerite SELLERS) b. 3 Aug 1879 (14)
- i. Euphemie DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 1st wife Marie Marguerite SELLERS) b. 2 Jun 1885 (17) m. Lessuud GUIDRY
- j. Pierre DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 2nd wife Mathilde ?) (59) m. Marie MIRE
- k. Estelle DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & 2nd wife Mathilde ?) d. about 8 yrs. Typhoid Fever
7. Cecila DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & Marie Carmelite MOUTON) m. 24 Sep 1866 Victor GUIDRY (8)
8. Carmelite DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & Marie Carmelite MOUTON) m. 1 Jul 1867 Omer GUIDRY (8)
- C. Charles Symthroine DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & Victoire GUIDRY) b. 4 Nov 1812 (2)
- D. Marie Magdelene Marceline DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & Victoire GUIDRY) b. 1 Feb 1815 (2) m. 23 Jul 1832 Joseph Onesime BAUDOUIN (3)
- E. Ludvine (Davine) DARTÈS (Jean Pierre & Victoire GUIDRY) b. 20 Aug 1817 (2) m. 13 Aug 1832 Sosthene HEBERT (3)
- VI. Pelagie DARTÈS (Jean & Pelagie PROVOST) bt. 19 Jun 1795 at age 5 (1) 1st m. 10 Aug 1809 Francoise MARCEAUX (1)
2nd m. 25 Aug 1836 Arne DuFOUR (3)
- VII. Josephine Ponponne DARTÈS (Jean & Pelagie PROVOST) bt. 19 Jun 1795 at age 4 (1)
A. Jean Jacques (1) alias Manus Ami (3) DARTÈS (Josephine Ponponne) b. 15 Oct 1810 (1) m. 30 Jan 1837 Marceline ARCEAUX (3) 2nd m. Mene Phanie LOIGNON (5) (6)
1. Virginie Corine DARTÈS (Jean Jacques & 1st wife Marceline ARCEAUX) b. 30 Sep 1837 (3)
2. Victorie Clara DARTÈS (Jean Jacques & 1st wife Marceline ARCEAUX) b. 12 Jul 1842 (4)
3. Mene Marceline DARTÈS (Jean Jacques & 1st wife Marceline ARCEAUX) b. 22 Dec 1843 (4)
4. Valerien Jacques DARTÈS (Jean Jacques & 2nd wife Mene Phanie LOIGNON) b. 16 Dec 1851 (5)
5. Mene Eugenie Alphonsine DARTÈS (Jean Jacques & 2nd wife Mene Phanie LOIGNON) b. 12 May 1853 (5)
6. Nicolas Edgar DARTÈS (Jean Jacques & 2nd wife Mene Phanie LOIGNON) b. 23 Dec 1855 (6)
- VIII. Pierre DARTÈS (Jean & Pelagie PROVOST) bt. 19 Jun 1795 at age 2 (1) m. 29 Mar 1814 Julienne, Julie Ann LEIGNON (2)
- A. Lovinsky (Lovesgen) DARTÈS (58) (Pierre & Julienne LEIGNON) b. 28 Feb 1814 (2) m. Marie Celeste BOURGEOIS (5)
1. Elodie DARTÈS (Lovinsky & Marie Celeste BOURGEOIS) b. 18 Sep 1850 (5)
2. Mene Idelle DARTÈS (Lovinsky & Marie Celeste BOURGEOIS) b. 22 Jun 1852 (5)
- B. Euphemie DARTÈS (Pierre & Julienne LEIGNON) b. 23 Dec 1816 (2) m. 19 Jan 1831 Louis Nicolas PELLERIN (3)
- C. Celestine Ernestine (Ernestine) DARTÈS (Pierre & Julienne LEIGNON) b. 22 Sep 1823 (2) 1st m. 20 Dec 1842 Hubert PELLERIN (4) 2nd m. 9 Feb 1852 Etienne ARCEAUX (5)
- D. Neuville (Nevel) (Neville) Jean Pierre DARTÈS (Pierre & Julienne LEIGNON) ? m. ca. 1840 Julie (Celeni) Vicky LANDRY ? (6)
1. Julie DARTÈS (Neuville Jean Pierre & Julia Vicky LANDRY) b. 20 Jul 1841 (4)

2. Pierre Aruns DARTÈS (Neuville Jean Pierre & Julia Vicky LANDRY) b. 1847, m. 18 Feb 1867 Marie Celina BOUDREAU (8)
 - e. Marie Lilly DARTÈS (Pierre Aruns & Marie Celina BOUDREAU) b. ca. 1873 (10) m. at 21 yrs old 19 Jun 1894 Ernest HEBERT (22 yrs old) (25)
 - b. Marie Odile DARTÈS (Pierre Aruns & Marie Celina BOUDREAU) b. 12 Mar 1874 (1) m. 18 Sep 1896 Onezime EGBY (14) (27)
 - c. Jean Nuville (Merville) DARTÈS (Pierre Aruns & Marie Celina BOUDREAU) b. 17 May 1876 (12)
 - d. Clerville Joseph DARTÈS (Pierre Aruns & Marie Celina BOUDREAU) b. 19 Nov 1879 (14)
 - e. Mary Celina DARTÈS (Pierre Aruns & Marie Celina BOUDREAU) b. 5 Nov 1881 (15) m. 10 Apr 1899 Gaston MIGUEZ (30)
 - f. Ada Valentine DARTÈS (Pierre Aruns & Marie Celina BOUDREAU) b. 14 Mar 1884 (16) m. 16 Jan 1901 (32) Albert RANCONNET (32)
 - g. Clara DARTÈS (Pierre Aruns & Marie Celina BOUDREAU) b. 12 May 1887 (18)
3. Pierre DARTÈS (Neuville Jean Pierre & Julia Vicky LANDRY) b. 8 Nov 1848 (5)
4. Jean (Dartier) DARTÈS (Neuville Jean Pierre & Julia Vicky LANDRY) b. 11 Mar 1849 (5) m. 12 Apr 1871 Malvina BROUSSARD (10)
 - a. Felix DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 21 Jun 1872 (10) m. 8 Sep 1892 Arvilla BOUDREAU (23)
 - b. Amanda DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 28 Jan 1874 (11) m. 7 Jul 1890 Louis PESSON (21)
 - c. Antonia DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 8 Feb 1876 (12) m. 24 Jan 1894 Uvald LeBLANC (25)
 - d. Hippolyte DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 5 Jan 1878 (13) m. 26 Oct 1903 Rose DAVID (35)
 - e. Philomene Arunta DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 14 Apr 1879 (14)
 - f. Pierre Aronse DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 12 Mar 1881 (15)
 - g. Jean Darfiede DARTÈS (33) (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 17 Sep 1883 (16) m. 5 Jan 1903 Noelle DAVID (33)
 - h. Joseph Eraste DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 12 Apr 1885 (17)
 - i. Anatole DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 6 May 1888 (19)
 - j. Marie DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 26 May 1890 (21)
 - k. Joseph Laodice DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 27 Oct 1893 (24)
 - l. Isidore DARTÈS (Jean Dartier & Malvina BROUSSARD) b. 7 Mar 1897 (28)
5. Amanda DARTÈS (Neuville Jean Pierre & Julia Vicky LANDRY) b. 6 Apr 1850 (5) m. 26 Apr 1866 Desire BROUSSARD (8)
- E. Pierre Adrien DARTÈS (Pierre & Julienne LEIGNON) b. Still a minor in 1836
- IX. Eugénie DARTÈS (Jean & Polagie PROVOST) bl. 19 Jun 1795 m. 30 Jun 1813 Joseph LEIGNON (2)
- X. Alexandre DARTÈS I (Jean & Polagie PROVOST) b. 1 Jun 1798 (1) m. 25 Apr 1816 Arthemise LEIGNON (2)
 - A. Alice (Alix) DARTÈS (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) b. 17 Feb 1817 (2) m. 15 Apr 1833 Michel CASTRO (3)
 - B. Alexandre DARTÈS II (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) b. 9 Jan 1819 (2) m. 13 Dec 1841 Marie Adeline BROUSSARD (4)
 1. Alexandre III (Alexandre II & Marie Adeline BROUSSARD) b. 19 Jun 1843 (4) m. 21 Apr 1862 Anastasie HEBERT (7)
 - a. Aspasia DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 14 May 1863 (7) m. 2 Jul 1877 Antoine Dupre BROUSSARD (13)
 - b. Jules DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 11 Jan 1867 (8) m. 6 Jun 1887 Emma BROUSSARD (18)
 - c. Eugénie DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 2 Apr 1868 (8)
 - d. Anastasie DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 1869
 - e. Aurélie DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 2 Dec 1870 (9) m. 18 Jan 1892 Aurélie SIMON (23)
 - f. Marie Edna DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 14 Feb 1873 (11) m. 3 Nov 1888 Numa VINCENT (19)
 - g. Arthur DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 16 Feb 1876 (12) m. 29 Aug 1894 Clympe TRAHAN (25)
 - h. Felix DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 7 Nov 1877 (13) m. 14 Nov 1898 Amélie (Emelia) BROUSSARD (29)
 - i. Emelia DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 20 Oct 1879 (14) m. 30 Aug 1897 Leon BROUSSARD (28)
 - j. Louisa DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 8 Apr 1881 (15) m. 7 Feb 1898 Willie GALLIER (29)
 - k. Onesime (Onezime) DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 19 Dec 1882 (15) m. 11 Dec 1902 Louisa (Louise) PREJEAN (34)
 - l. Joseph Avery DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 11 Jul 1885 (17) m. 27 Sep 1913 Marie LeBLANC
 - m. Gabriel DARTÈS (Alexandre III & Anastasie HEBERT) b. 7 Nov 1886 (17) m. 7 Apr 1904 Laurence BAUDOIN
 2. Marie (Euranie) DARTÈS (Alexandre II & Marie Adeline BROUSSARD) b. 7 Mar 1845 (4) m. 9 Apr 1860 François Despanet LEGE (17)

3. Mane DARTÈS (Alexandre II & Marie Adeline BROUSSARD) b. 26 Oct 1846 (4) m. 18 Sep 1865 Syphroyen TRAHAN (7)
4. Jules DARTÈS (Alexandre II & Marie Adeline BROUSSARD) b. 24 Feb 1848 (5)
5. Valenèn DARTÈS (Alexandre II & Marie Adeline BROUSSARD) b. 22 Nov 1850 m. 10 Jan 1866 Emerthile BOURQUE (8)
 - a. Valenèn DARTÈS (Valenèn & Mane GUIDRY) b. 8 Mar 1870 (9) m. 27 Oct 1891 Edmonia HOLLIER (22)
6. Eugene DARTÈS (Alexandre II & Marie Adeline BROUSSARD) b. 30 May 1852 (5)
- C. Francois Evariste DARTÈS (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) b. 14 Mar 1821 (2) 1st m. 20 Jun 1842 Carmélite (FORK) (FARK) FAULK (4) 2nd m. 17 Oct 1864 Eulalie FAULK (FARQUE) (7)
 1. Francois Vans DARTÈS (Francois Evariste & Carmélite FAULK) b. 17 Sep 1842 (4)
 2. Alexandrine DARTÈS (Francois Evariste & Carmélite FAULK) b. 18 May 1846 (4) m. 26 Nov 1865 Pierre MARCEAU (7)
 3. Belsire (Belzine) DARTÈS (Francois Evariste & Carmélite FAULK) b. 22 May 1848 (5) m. 17 Oct 1864 Jean Arvenne HEBERT (7)
 4. Alexandre DARTÈS (Francois Evariste & Carmélite FAULK) b. 2 Sep 1850 (5) m. 3 Apr 1875 Hortensia MARCEAUX (12)
 - a. Alexandre DARTÈS Jr (Alexandre & Hortensia MARCEAUX) b. 24 Oct 1874 (11) m. 31 May 1897 Admre MARCEAUX (28)
 - b. Marie Ozane (Ozanne) DARTÈS (Alexandre & Hortensia Marceaux) (25) b. 25 Oct 1870 (9) m. 30 Jan 1894 Zeolive (MAYARD) MAILLARD (25)
 - c. Clara (Clara) DARTÈS (Alexandre & Hortensia MARCEAUX) b. 24 Oct 1880 (14) m. 4 May 1896 Louis Fenal (Fenod) LEMAIRE (27)
 - d. Michel Clair DARTÈS (Alexandre & Hortensia MARCEAUX) b. 4 Oct 1882 (15)
 - e. Ode DARTÈS (Alexandre & Hortensia MARCEAUX) b. 2 Apr 1888 (29)
5. Ernest DARTÈS (Francois Evariste & 1st wife Carmélite FAULK) b. 22 Feb 1852 (5) m. 5 Oct 1871 Aspasia FAULK (10)
 - a. Umea (Eumea) DARTÈS (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 2 Mar 1873 (11) m. 31 Oct 1889 Duive BROUSSARD (20)
 - b. Alexandre Napoleon DARTÈS (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 24 Mar 1875 (12) 1st m. 20 Jan 1896 Ella MARCEAUX (27), 2nd m. 10 Feb 1902 Anna GUIDRY (34)
 - c. Jules DARTÈS (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 9 Oct 1877 (13) m. 25 Apr 1900 Louise PELLERIN (31)
 - d. Joseph Alexis DARTÈS (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 6 Sep 1880 (14)
 - e. Francois Ernest DARTÈS (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 31 Jan 1883 (16) m. 9 Nov 1903 Eulalie LEMAIRE (35)
 - f. Paul Amand DARTÈS (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 5 Feb 1885 (17)
 - g. Mane (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 15 Jul 1887 (18)
 - h. Clairant Gabriel DARTÈS (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 1 Jun 1891 (22)
 - i. André Conrad DARTÈS (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 4 Jan 1895 (26)
 - j. Mane Olive DARTÈS (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 8 Mar 1898 (29)
 - k. Odilon DARTÈS (Ernest & Aspasia FAULK) b. 13 Jan 1901 (34)
6. Mane Eugenie DARTÈS (Francois Evariste & 1st wife Carmélite FAULK) b. 11 Jan 1855 (6)
 - m. 12 Dec 1870 Ophelia BOURQUE (9)
7. Mane Alice DARTÈS (Francois Evariste & 1st wife Carmélite FAULK) b. 20 Jun 1857 (6) m. 13 Jan 1874 Arvene MONTEAU (11)
8. Felicien DARTÈS (Francois Evariste & 1st wife Carmélite FAULK) b. Jun 1860 m. 26 Feb 1878 Ursule BLANCHET (13)
 - a. Joseph Aenele (Avenet) DARTÈS (Felicien & Ursule BLANCHET) b. 1 Feb 1879 (14) m. 25 Oct 1899 Eliza LEONARD (30)
 - b. Evariste DARTÈS (Felicien & Ursule BLANCHET) b. 20 Sep 1880 (14)
 - c. Laurent DARTÈS (Felicien & Ursule BLANCHET) b. 4 Sep 1882 (15)
 - d. Mane Aurore DARTÈS (Felicien & Ursule BLANCHET) bt. 7 May 1885 (17)
 - e. Felicie DARTÈS (Felicien & Ursule BLANCHET) b. 25 Jan 1887 (18)
 - f. Felicien DARTÈS (Felicien & Ursule BLANCHET) b. 4 Feb 1889 (20)
 - g. Emmanuel DARTÈS (Felicien & Ursule BLANCHET) b. 23 Jan 1891 (22)
9. Alexis DARTÈS (Francois Evariste & 1st wife Carmélite FAULK) b. 18 Jul 1862 (7) m. 29 Aug 1881 Ernestine LeBLANC
 - a. A. S. (Alexis) DARTÈS Jr. (Alexis & Ernestine LeBLANC) b. 27 Nov 1882 (15) m. 11 Aug 1903 Cora (Ludovic) RODRIGUES (33) (35)
 - b. Regina DARTÈS (Alexis & Ernestine LeBLANC) b. 23 Mar 1886 (17)
 - c. Claire DARTÈS (Alexis & Ernestine LeBLANC) b. 12 Aug 1888 (19)
10. Elisa DARTÈS (Francoise Evariste & 2nd wife Eulalie FAULK) b. 18 Aug 1864 (7) m. 13 Dec 1880 Simeon BROUSSARD (14)
11. Anastasie DARTÈS (Francoise Evariste & 2nd wife Eulalie FAULK) bt. 23 Jul 1866 (8)
12. Ida DARTÈS (Francoise Evariste & 2nd wife Eulalie FAULK) b. 30 Jun 1866 (8)

13. Joseph Laodice DARTÈS (Françoise Evariste & 2nd wife Eulalie FAULK) b. 21 Jun 1870 (9) m. 26 Nov 1889
Emeline MARCEAUX (20) (22)
 - a. Anna DARTÈS (Joseph Laodice & Emeline MARCEAUX) b. 1 Mar 1891 (22)
 - b. Paul Elis DARTÈS (Joseph Laodice & Emeline MARCEAUX) b. 22 Dec 1895 (26)
 - c. Annette DARTÈS (Joseph Laodice & Emeline MARCEAUX) b. 5 Jul 1898 (29)
14. Evariste DARTÈS (François Evariste & 2nd wife Eulalie FAULK) b. 9 Nov 1872 (10) m. 11 Dec 1890 Annonciade
BROUSSARD (21)
 - a. Flavie DARTÈS (Evariste & Annonciade BROUSSARD) b. 23 Jun 1892 (23)
 - b. Lucie DARTÈS (Evariste & Annonciade BROUSSARD) b. 10 Dec 1896 (27)
 - c. Leonore DARTÈS (Evariste & Annonciade BROUSSARD) b. 28 Feb 1898 (29)
- D. Marie Sylvanie (2) Sylvanie DARTÈS (4) (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) bt. 20 Apr 1830 at age 5 yrs (2) 1st m.
3 Nov 1841 Alexis GUIDRY (4) 2nd m. Michel HARDY (28)
- E. Coralie DARTÈS (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) bt. 20 Apr 1830 at age 3 yrs (2)
- F. Marie Aurélie DARTÈS (4) (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) bt. 20 Apr 1830 at age 13 mths. (2) m. 22 Dec 1845
Edmond GUIDRY (4)
- G. Adrien DARTÈS (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) bt. 25 Sep 1833 at age 4 mths. (3) m. 23 Jul 1856
Emelia MANCEAU (6) MARCEAUX (20)
 1. Coralie DARTÈS (Adrien & Emelia MANCEAU (MARCEAUX) b. 14 May 1856 (6) m. 11 Aug 1874 Donat A.
BROUSSARD (11)
 2. Claire A. DARTÈS (Adrien & Emelia MANCEAU (MARCEAUX) b. 12 Sep 1858 (6)
 3. Azélie DARTÈS (Adrien & Emelia MANCEAU (MARCEAUX) b. 18 Sep 1860 (6) m. 14 Jul 1879 Laodice LANDRY (14)
 4. Murat Alexandre (Adrien & Emelia MANCEAU (MARCEAUX) b. 13 Aug 1862 (7) m. 24 Apr 1882 Clélie THIBODEAUX (15)
 - a. Adam DARTÈS (Murat Alexandre & Clélie THIBODEAUX) b. 1 Mar 1883 (16)
 - b. Adrien DARTÈS (Murat Alexandre & Clélie THIBODEAUX) b. 8 Oct 1887 (18)
 - c. Worthes Joseph DARTÈS (Murat Alexandre & Clélie THIBODEAUX) b. 21 Aug 1892 (23)
 5. Adrien DARTÈS (Adrien & Emelia MANCEAU (MARCEAUX) b. 8 Dec 1884 (7) m. 26 Jul 1883 Honorine COMEAUX (16)
 - a. Anna Arthemise DARTÈS (Adrien & Honorine COMEAUX) b. 16 Oct 1885 (17) m. 17 Nov 1902 Jean LEONARD (34)
 - b. Idélie DARTÈS (Adrien & Honorine COMEAUX) b. 19 Dec 1888 (19)
 6. François Colombus DARTÈS (Adrien & Emelia MANCEAU (MARCEAUX) b. 29 Aug 1867 (6) m. 29 Jun 1885 Mathilde
BROUSSARD (17)
 7. Ophélie DARTÈS (Adrien & Emelia MANCEAU (MARCEAUX) b. 1 Aug 1870 (9) 1st m. 4 Mar 1889 Arthemise
THIBEAUX (20) 2nd m. 1890 Emelie SUIR (23)
 - a. Joseph Aussane DARTÈS (Ophélie & 2nd wife Emelie SUIR) b. 12 Mar 1892 (23)
 - b. Joseph Nelson DARTÈS (Ophélie & 2nd wife Emelie SUIR) b. 25 Feb 1893 (24)
 - c. Hosianna DARTÈS (Ophélie & 2nd wife Emelie SUIR) b. 10 Dec 1897 (28)
 - d. Ernest DARTÈS (Ophélie & 2nd wife Emelie SUIR) b. 14 May 1902 (36)
 - e. Ophée DARTÈS (Ophélie & 2nd wife Emelie SUIR) b. 18 Nov 1903 (36)
 8. Emelia DARTÈS (Adrien & Emelia MANCEAU (MARCEAUX) b. 14 Nov 1873 (11) m. 24 Jun 1889 Jean
LARROQUETTE (20)
- H. Antoine Valenon DARTÈS (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) bt. 11 Mar 1836 at age 6 mths. (3)
1st m. 30 Apr 1855 Marguerite BROUSSARD (6) 2nd m. 10 Jan 1866 Emerthilie BOURROUE (8)
- I. Julien DARTÈS (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) b. ca. 1827? (6) m. 14 Feb 1859 Elizabeth RICHARD (6)
- J. Jules DARTÈS (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) b. 28 Jul 1841 (4)
- K. Julie Ophélie DARTÈS (Alexandre I & Arthemise LEIGNON) b. 28 Jul 1843 (4) 1st m. Drauzin DUBOIS (8)
2nd m. 6 Aug 1867 Ozema DITCH (8)
- XI. Eugénie Fredenck DARTÈS (Jean & Pelagie PROVOST) b. 7 May 1802 (1)

The Material Culture of the Attakapas District in the First Two Decades of the Nineteenth Century A Report on Research Underway

by
Glenn R. Conrad

Until I undertook detailed research into day-to-day life in the Attakapas District of Louisiana² in the early nineteenth century, I had come to that point in my academic career where I was willing to accept (largely as a result of sparse scholarship on the subject but strong oral tradition) the view that Attakapas at the beginning of the American period, less than fifty years after the area was truly opened to European settlement,³ was a frontier region, largely isolated from the mainstream of life along the Mississippi River and in New Orleans. I tended to accept the popular and sometimes scholarly view, largely put forward in the 1950s and 60s, that everyday life in Attakapas, especially for the many Acadian settlers, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries had been primitive but pastoral and protective of ancient customs. One hundred years after its publication, *Evangeline* was still influencing many conceptions of early Attakapas, including my own. By the 1970s, however, with the coming of the French renaissance in Louisiana, the civil rights movement in America, and the separatist movement in Quebec, the earlier legends born of the *grand dérangement* and the romancing of Longfellow's *Evangeline*, were incorporated into a new body of literature which saddled these older pastoral visions of the Acadian past with a stark economic interpretation with attention-getting consequences. It was now stated that the economic conditions of the early Acadian settlers of Louisiana, namely their poverty and its social consequences, were owing to the avarice of other ethnic groups who settled in Louisiana, particularly the French Creoles and the Anglo-Americans. According to this interpretation, beginning with the Louisiana Purchase, Acadians were systematically pushed off their good, wealth-producing lands by the legal and financial manipulations of the Creoles and Anglos, but particularly by the sugar interests among those two ethnic groups. The consequences for the Acadians, according to this interpretation, were comparable to a second *grand dérangement*. They were now exiled to Louisiana's swamplands and marshlands where, only by their wits, they kept body and soul together. Scorned by other ethnic groups, denied

¹ This paper was delivered to the annual meeting of the Attakapas Historical Association held in Lafayette, La., on December 5, 1992. Information presented here is taken from *Land Records of the Attakapas District, Vol. II, Part 2, Estates, 1804-1818* (hereafter cited as *Estates, 1804-1818*).

² The old Attakapas District of Louisiana are the five present-day parishes of St. Martin, St. Mary, Lafayette, Vermilion, and Iberia. The district was an administrative unit until 1811 when St. Mary Parish was established. The records consulted for Volume II, Part 2, of the Land Records Series include those of the entire District from 1804 to 1811 and those of St. Martin Parish (present-day St. Martin, Lafayette, Vermilion, and part of Iberia parishes) between 1811 and 1818. The cutoff date of 1818 was chosen because in that year occurred the highwater mark of the post-War of 1812 economic boom.

³ The first land grants in the Attakapas District were made in the early 1760s. It was not, however, until 1765, with the coming of the exiled Acadians, that the District had a recognizable European population. For more on the pioneers of Attakapas, their colonial landholdings, and the land claims they put forward to the American government, see Glenn R. Conrad, *Land Records of the Attakapas District, Vol. I, The Attakapas Domesday Book* (Lafayette, La.: The Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1990).

access to the riches of Louisiana, antebellum and post-Civil War Acadians were only, at best second-class citizens. From these dreary accounts of the Acadian lifestyle during the group's first century and a half in Louisiana was born the heroic legends of how these depressed people survived in order to come into their own in the latter half of the twentieth century.⁴

Indeed, it was only when I began to question these interpretations and the related theses of oral tradition that I undertook this study of life, particularly Acadian life, in Attakapas in the years between the Louisiana Purchase and the Civil War. It did not seem reasonable to me that in a land as rich as Louisiana everyone, including the Acadians, should not, after the initial period of pioneer adjustments, begin to produce surplus wealth which would ameliorate the pioneer lifestyle so typical of the American frontier. Why, I repeatedly asked myself, was it necessary for Acadians, particularly beginning with the second generation, to live in a world of such deprivation where the only clothing they possessed were garments made of cotton that they had grown, picked, carded, spun, and weaved? Why did they always have to go barefooted, or, at best, succeeded in producing only some primitive footwear which harkened back to serfdom in Europe? Frontier men and women elsewhere in America were wearing shoes and boots, why not the Acadians? Didn't the Acadians develop a long tradition of wearing shoes and boots in Acadia? Furthermore, why did legend and the 1970s interpretations insist that Acadians were usually eking out a subsistence existence on small farms when one of the cheapest commodities in Attakapas was land.⁵ Were the Acadians driven off their lands by greedy Creoles and Anglos?⁶ Was the legend that Acadians seldom owned slaves based on fact? Was Attakapas such a backwater of civilization that no one had yet dared to bring the products of early nineteenth-century technology into the area so that settlers and their immediate descendants had to be self-sufficient? Was it that entrepreneurs saw the poverty of the people, especially the Acadians, and wrote off investment in Attakapas as a waste of time and money? Questions such as these bothered me sufficiently so that by 1987 I began this research into Attakapas lifestyles in the antebellum era. The results to date have been astounding and form the bases of the Attakapas Land Records Series.

The analysis of land and slave proprietorship between 1804 and 1818, which I presented in Volume II, Part 1, of the Land Records Series⁶ clearly indicates that social classes quickly developed among Attakapas Acadians. It also confirms that some of the wealthiest people of Attakapas were Acadians; more importantly, however, it shows that there was a strong middle class developing among Acadians. Now, an analysis of estates for the same period, 1804-1818, indicates much the same, but the successions tell us a great deal more about the lifestyle of the people of Attakapas than do the conveyance records. In order to put that larger picture of day-to-day life in better focus, I compiled from estate inventories and/or sales a partial list of objects found in the homes of Attakapas residents and stores of Attakapas merchants between 1804 and 1818.⁷ Without doubt, it is the material culture aspect of the estates which casts new light on life in

⁴For a discussion of the foregoing interpretations, see the "Introduction to the Series," *ibid.*, ix-xxviii.

⁵So cheap during the colonial era of Attakapas, 1764-1803, that it was given away for the asking. Volume I of this series confirms the fact that the Acadians knew how to ask for and receive land grants.

⁶Glenn R. Conrad, *Land Records of the Attakapas District, Volume II, Part 1, Conveyance Records of Attakapas County (Lafayette, La.: The Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1992)*, hereafter *Conveyance Records, 1804-1818*.

⁷See *Estates, 1804-1818*, Appendix 2. This is not, by far, a complete listing of every object found in every inventory of every estate reviewed. The repetition would have been not only boring but also overwhelming. What I have tried to do is list everyday items found in most households or in area stores two or three times for different years of the analysis to determine any fluctuation in price. I have, however, made a determined effort to list unusual items found in households or stores. Moreover, I became so amazed by the quantity and variety of textiles found in the inventory of local merchants that I listed every inventory or sale reference to textiles.

the Attakapas in the early nineteenth century. At first glance at the region's material culture, there were, of course, certain objects found in practically every home: beds, chairs, tables, armoires, dishes, and various utensils. Outside the house, the same was true: there were plows, harrows, carts and wagons, hand tools of all kinds, the ubiquitous caleche, tubs, buckets, grindstones, etc. This investigation, however, turned up objects which I would have never expected to find had I adhered to the vision of legend or the interpretations of the 1970s. As a result of page-by-page research of conveyance and succession records, I now have a much more realistic view of life in Attakapas in the early nineteenth century, a view that is far more compatible with frontier life, or near-frontier life, as it was elsewhere in early nineteenth-century America.

House Construction

After going through the succession inventories, there is no escaping the clear message that early nineteenth-century residents of Attakapas were frugal people, whether they had to be or not, and perhaps this is characteristic of pioneers. Certainly, there is nothing that one could point to as being ostentatious, and this is true not only for wealthy individuals like Martin Duralde and Amand Broussard but also for the larger group of middle-class people.

The homes of Attakapas residents, based on evidence at hand, seem to have been nothing more than was absolutely necessary for everyday family life. Amand Broussard's house, for example, appraised at \$600 in the boom year of 1818.⁸ Most houses were of frame construction, wood being the most readily available building resource. Cypress was used inside and out, bousillage was commonplace in house construction. Houses seldom had more than five rooms, although it is difficult to determine what was a "room" and what was a glorified closet.⁹ Because so much of nineteenth-century living was out-of-doors, for example, eating, visiting, and working on house porches, the need for rooms was confined in most instances to the basic requirements for sleeping and protection from the elements. While many houses were fitted with solid wood window blinds and solid wooden doors ranging from crude construction to carpenter finished,¹⁰ many houses had sashes fitted with glass lights and doors which incorporated some glass. Panelled doors were available for Attakapas residents. Darby House, near New Iberia, which dated from approximately 1816, had panelled doors on the interior and exterior. Brick houses, while uncommon, were not rare.¹¹ The Darby family seem to have been devotees of brick houses, building them at Baldwin and Lake Tasse.¹² Agricole Fuselier built the beautiful house now known as "Alice" during the course of the years under review.¹³ There is no doubt, however, that the majority of houses were of cypress frame construction, built on cypress piers. The roof covering was almost always cypress shingles. Almost all houses had a gallery in front and back. If the house was of all-cypress construction, there was no need for painting the wood for protection against insects and the elements. Thus, many Attakapas homes were unpainted, and with time

⁸See *Estates, 1804-1818*, Estate No. 288.

⁹By "glorified closets," I have in mind some of the cabinets that were usually a part of Attakapas houses.

¹⁰Only in the estate of Dr. Ramus Davis (*Estates, 1804-1818*, Estate No. 305) did I find mention of panelled doors. Perhaps the only reason for this mention was that they had not been installed and therefore were being mentioned separately from the house. It would seem likely that panelled doors had been installed in other Attakapas homes by this time. Darby House, near New Iberia, which dated from approximately 1816, had panelled doors on the interior and exterior.

¹¹Many houses were installing brick chimneys by the second decade of the nineteenth century. Charles Pocot, for example, required a double brick chimney for the new house he had built in 1815. See *Conveyance Records, 1804-1818*, p. 213.

¹²The house at Baldwin survives to this day. The Darby House near New Iberia was destroyed by fire in February 1979. See Gertrude C. Taylor, "Last Days of Darby," *Attakapas Gazette*, XIII (1978), 103-106.

¹³See Glenn R. Conrad, "A Lady Called Alice," *Attakapas Gazette*, XIII (1978), 124-128.

the cypress exterior boards developed a soft grey patina. If bousillage was employed in construction, it was usually covered with boards or white-washed¹⁴ for further protection against the high annual rainfall of the area. All Attakapas merchants sold slaked lime for making white-wash. Some residents, however, elected to paint their homes.¹⁵ One individual's inventory carried three kegs of paint, blue, green, and brown. All Attakapas merchants had on hand white lead and linseed oil, two ingredients of paint.

Furnishings

The interiors of the houses were sparsely furnished as one would expect in a frugal society. Usually only what was needed and used was found in the house. Even the homes of wealthy individuals seem to have had few superfluous furnishings. Take, for example the Martin Duralde household.¹⁶ After reviewing the community property inventory, I wonder how was it possible for this well-known, wealthy couple to entertain and accommodate the many prominent members of their family and other visitors with so few bedroom accommodations. The inventory indicates that the couple had one cherrywood double bed, two cypress double beds, and a single bed. These would hardly seem sufficient to accommodate a visit from Duralde's son-in-law, Governor W. C. C. Claiborne and his family as well as the residents of the house. Nevertheless, the Duraldes had 20 pair of bedsheets and 19 bedspreads, but, oddly enough, only 4 mosquito bars were inventoried.

If, however, the Duraldes were planning to entertain at dinner, they were apparently well outfitted for the occasion. They had 5 tables, 2 described as being square, 4 of cherrywood, and 1 of mahogany. For these tables there were 12 chairs, two of which were armchairs. One might assume, therefore, that the Duralde dinner parties did not exceed 10 guests. This assumption is reinforced by the fact that the inventory lists 12 silver coffee spoons, despite the fact that the couple owned 18 silver place settings.

Interestingly enough, the Duralde inventory does not include anything that might be construed to be parlor furniture; however, the list does include two mirrors and a pierglass. With the exception of the one couch mentioned in Estate No. 139 and the cushioned chairs found in Estate No. 233,¹⁷ there is no indication of "parlor" furniture in the homes of Attakapas. Mirrors, other than "shaving mirrors," are only rarely found in estate inventories between 1804 and 1818. I found only two clocks inventoried (Estate Nos. 120 and 288), but as with agricultural societies everywhere, the exact division of time may have been of little concern.¹⁸ To my utter surprise, Augustin Broussard had a sundial. Candelabra and candlesticks are conspicuous by their absence from the majority of inventories, and only 3 vases (Estate No. 4) were listed between 1804 and 1818. Clearly, bric-a-brac was something for the future.

Furnishings which appear in the inventories are largely for bedrooms and dining rooms. As the inventories indicate, much of this furniture was "country made," meaning homemade. But

¹⁴As Estates Nos. 126 and 305 (*Estates, 1804-1818*) attest, slaked lime was available in Attakapas.

¹⁵The inventory of Estate No. 305 (*Estates, 1804-1818*) lists three kegs of paint, blue, green, and brown. Charles Pécot's contract for building a house called for the house to be "painted" white (*Conveyance Records*, p. 213). Appendix 2 of *Estates, 1804-1818* lists white lead and linseed oil, two ingredients of paint. Also found in that appendix is an entry for copperas, which would have produced a green hue; however, copperas was usually used to making a green dye.

¹⁶*Estates, 1804-1818*, Estate No. 233.

¹⁷*Ibid.*, Estates 139 and 233.

¹⁸Pocket watches fare only slightly better. For the period 1804 to 1818 only five gold or silver pocket watches were inventoried (Estates Nos. 11, 228, 237 [2], 303). Of course, one can assume that most pocket watches simply passed down to heirs and therefore did not enter succession inventories.

the inventories strongly imply that there was furniture in Attakapas homes made by craftsmen. The woods used in local furniture-making were cypress, cherrywood, and walnut.¹⁹ One does find, however, the occasional piece made of mahogany—an imported wood.²⁰ There is not to be found in these records anyone in Attakapas identified as a professional cabinetmaker. Nevertheless, the inventory of the mercantile firm of Garrigou and Abat indicates that these merchants had 7 bedsteads for sale. They also had tables and chairs for sale.²¹ Someone, either locally or elsewhere, had to have made them. The best guide to the craftsmanship of furniture inventoried is its appraisal value. Similar items appraised at different prices suggest better craftsmanship for the higher value.

Kitchens, Pantries, Dining Areas

If other rooms of the house were usually sparsely furnished, kitchens, pantries, and dining areas were most substantially outfitted. In the kitchen there was usually a plethora of iron pots, but other cooking vessels are seldom mentioned. One gets the impression that the ubiquitous iron pot served in the preparation of almost everything eaten. Most household inventories for the era reveal numerous demijohns which contained most of the liquids used for drinking or for food preparation. Almost every kitchen and pantry had a great many bottles, sometimes a household would have as many as 500 bottles. Although the inventories imply that the bottles were empty (because nothing is recorded as "15 bottles of this" or "10 bottles of that"), we cannot infer that they were not used. First of all, as the merchant inventories reveal, many liquids were bulk packaged in barrels or casks. The customer would arrive at the store with empty bottles in hand to be filled by the merchant. The same was probably true of demijohns. Also, one must take into consideration that while merchant inventories usually indicate large stocks of alcoholic beverages, household inventories seldom reveal the presence of spirits. There can be little doubt that some of these bottles were used for homemade wine, beer, and cordials. At least one merchant in the area sold bottle corks.²²

Most households had an array of dishes, platters, soup bowls, drinking glasses, cups and saucers, crockery, and the occasional candy or sugar dish. With rare exception none of these items seems to have been of sufficient quality to set it apart from the "run-of-the mill."²³ On the other hand, a surprising number of Attakapas households had silver place settings, clearly attesting to the evolving class structure. Also found frequently listed are silver soup ladles. While the ladles and silver place settings reflect appropriate values, everyday table knives, forks, and spoons seem to have been unusually cheap. A dozen table knives or forks sold for \$1.00.

Tablecloths and napkins are frequently included in the inventories. One gets the distinct impression that if someone in early nineteenth-century Attakapas wanted to impress family or guests, it was done at the dining table. It was there that one detects a slight splurge on the part of householders. In addition to the silver place settings, the silver soup ladle, one finds, through the inventories, that there were assorted serving dishes, soup tureens, covered dishes, tumblers,

¹⁹The term used in French is *noyer*. Black walnut trees did grow in South Louisiana, and it is possible that this wood was used in furniture-making; however, the term was also used by the early French settlers for pecan wood. The wood of the wild cherry tree is still considered by cabinetmakers to be excellent in furniture-making. Interestingly enough, nowhere in the inventories does one find furniture said to be made of oak, to say nothing of pine.

²⁰The Duraldes (Estate No. 233) had a mahogany table, and Adrien Dumartreit and his wife (Estate No. 311) had a mahogany bed and armoire.

²¹*Estates, 1804-1818*, Estate No. 60.

²²*Ibid.*, Estate No. 126.

²³An exception is found in Estate No. 311 where a porcelain tea service and tray are listed and appraised at \$20.00.

cups and saucers. True there is no indication that any of the plates, bowls, cups and saucers were made of fine china, nor is there any mention of stemmed crystal wine or water glasses; nevertheless one gets the distinct impression that many Attakapas dining tables had the option of being well appointed.

Foodstuffs

The merchant inventories provide an insight to what foodstuffs were available for sale. As one might expect of the times and the place, these foodstuffs were almost always those things which were not produced locally. One does not find in these early nineteenth-century stores the fully stocked shelves of canned goods, preserved and pickled items, and boxed products found on the shelves of the general merchandise store of the late nineteenth century. Moreover, the foodstuff inventories reflect the self-sufficient condition of the local population in regard to fresh, smoked, and salted meats and fresh and dried vegetables. Only occasionally does a household estate reveal some of the edible items on hand, and these are usually potatoes, peas, corn, and rice. Although the estates fail to inventory barnyard fowl of any kind, there can be little doubt that just about everyone had chickens, ducks, and geese and perhaps other fowl such as guinea fowl and turkeys. Naturally, the householder enjoyed an array of egg dishes, gumbos, stews, and hashes. Soup (or was it gumbo?) was obviously standard fare, judging from the number of soup bowls and tureens.²⁴ Corn, corn mills, and cornmeal are found in many inventories, suggesting, of course, that a considerable amount of cornbread was consumed, along with couche-couche, milk or clabber. The grease needed for frying the couche-couche must have always been nearby in one of the many lard jars inventoried. But we must not think that the early residents of Attakapas were limited to cornbread. Merchants had on hand barrels of wheat flour, which sold for about \$10 per barrel.

In addition to flour, the merchants usually carried large stocks of sugar and salt. The sugar was either domestic or Havana sugar. Havana sugar was considered better because it was whiter than the domestic product. Such large amounts of sugar on hand in the stores would suggest that the residents of Attakapas were using it for something more than their coffee. Possibly some of the sugar was going into fruit preserves. After discovering the amount of sugar on hand and the easy availability of sugar, one wonders if the people of Attakapas used honey in any quantity. There is absolutely no mention of honey in the inventories surveyed.

The large inventories of salt are to be expected. Of course some was used for seasoning, but the great bulk of salt consumed was used in preserving meat and pickling other products. Salt was readily available in Attakapas from at least the very early days of the nineteenth century. By 1812, Major Jesse McCall had established a salt-evaporation works on what is presently Avery Island (then called McCall's Island). His production must have been significant because he bought a schooner to transport his salt to market.²⁵ Salt sold for \$7 a barrel in 1810.

If salt was available for seasoning, so was pepper. Naturally, one immediately thinks of the people of Attakapas using red pepper. That was quite likely; however, if they did use red pepper, they did not buy it from the local merchant, they grew the peppers and prepared them in the household, probably using some of their many bottles on hand to store the finished product. The seasoning bought from local merchants was black pepper. This fact is somewhat surprising, for black pepper had to be imported, and one merchant's supply was appraised at \$5.00 per pound.²⁶

²⁴One merchant had on hand a case of vermicelli which is frequently used in soupmaking.

²⁵*Conveyance Records*, pp. 149, 183.

²⁶*Estates, 1804-1818*, Estate No. 92.

This might be considered expensive, but the fact that four Attakapas merchants had black pepper on hand indicates that there was a demand for it.

In addition to flour, salt, and pepper, local merchants usually had on hand large inventories of coffee and small amounts of tea. Coffee, while not grown in Louisiana, could be easily obtained from Cuba, Haiti, or Jamaica. Tea, on the other hand, had to be imported across great distances. That fact is reflected in the price of \$1.25 per lb. asked by one Attakapas merchant.²⁷ Coffee, on the other hand, sold for about 30¢ per lb. on average throughout the era investigated.²⁸ Again, however, tea was found in Attakapas because there was a demand for it, albeit small.

Spirits, Tobacco, and "Laissez les bons temps rouler."

Merchants also supplied the local demand for wine, whiskey, *tafia*, rum, brandy, assorted liqueurs (cordials), tobacco and snuff. Although there are many listings in the inventories under the term "wine," there were several references to "Malaga wine" and "Madeira wine." The interesting absence was any reference to "Bordeaux wine." Perhaps, however, the appraisers simply assumed that their reference to "wine" was, of course, Bordeaux wine. There is no indication whether the *tafia* was local or was coming from the West Indies, but there is no doubt about the entry for "Jamaican rum." There is no mention of beer in the inventories, but this may have been produced at home.²⁹ Wine and *tafia* like other spirits, came in bulk and was sold in smaller amounts to the customer who usually provided the bottles or demijohns necessary to take home his purchase. This was not the case with liqueurs, they were sold already bottled. I might add that syrup and certain oils, for example olive oil and palm oil, were sold already bottled. Only one merchant had cherry bounce in stock.³⁰ Tobacco was available from the merchants, but it would appear from their stocks of this item that the commodity was not used in great quantities, most of it being used for pipe smoking or chewing. Only one merchant had a small quantity of snuff on hand.³¹

If spirits and tobacco might be thought of as products used for leisure or festive times,³² they bring to mind another matter. I was struck by the absence of musical instruments in the inventories, whether household or merchant. The only musical instruments inventoried were two violins, one found in a household inventory and one for sale by a merchant.³³ The latter violin was offered with its case for \$25.00, not an extraordinary price when one considers that residents of

²⁷*Ibid.*, Estate No. 60.

²⁸Coffee was selling for 30¢ per lb. as late as the World War I years of 1917-1918. During the 1920s coffee prices fluctuated between 36¢ and 50¢ per lb., but during the 1930's depression years coffee prices ranged between 21¢ and 29¢. By 1943 the price of a pound of coffee was again 30¢, but coffee prices were then under wartime price controls. Coffee has not been that price per pound since 1945 and has not been below 50¢ per lb. since 1948. See *Historical Statistics*, Part 1, p. 213.

²⁹If there was homebrew of any kind, it does not show up in the household inventories.

³⁰Dominique Prévost (Estate No. 126) was the only merchant to stock cherry bounce (2 demijohns). From my own experience, however, I would think that this delicious concoction was usually made at home from the fruit of the Louisiana wild cherry.

³¹*Estates, 1804-1818*, Estate No. 92.

³²Coffee-drinking should also be included in this category.

³³*Estates, 1804-1818*, Estates 252 and 302.

Attakapas were buying slaves for \$1,000 to \$1,500 each. There is, as yet, no acceptable explanation for this dearth of musical instruments.³⁴

Textiles, Wearing Apparel, and Footwear

If there was a dearth of some items in the everyday lives of the people of Attakapas, certainly that dearth was not to be found among textiles. The evidence of the quantity, variety, and quality of textiles available to the people of Attakapas in the first two decades of the nineteenth century is simply astounding. That evidence lays to rest forever the oral tradition that Attakapas cottonade persisted as the principle textile for everyday wearing apparel in early nineteenth century Attakapas. I never expected to encounter the volume or variety of textiles such as that which turned up in Attakapas homes and stores. So astonishing was this revelation that I decided to record as much information as possible about these textiles.³⁵

Oral tradition has long maintained that the people of Attakapas, especially the Acadians, grew their yellow cotton, ginned it, carded it, spun it, weaved it, and sewed it into wearing apparel. And, indeed, they did, and undoubtedly some were continuing to do so in the first two decades of the nineteenth century because the inventories do record spinning wheels and looms in the area.³⁶ But, if the twenty spinning wheels and eleven looms carried in the 172 inventories analyzed are any reflection of the actual number of these items in Attakapas, one has to conclude that either the persons owning spinning wheels and looms were working day and night to provide cottonade for Attakapas, or the people of Attakapas were using other textiles for wearing apparel.³⁷ Common sense dictates that the merchants of Attakapas would not have had on hand, throughout the era under investigation, such large supplies or varieties of textiles if there had not been a corresponding demand for them. Further evidence of the fact that the spinning wheel may have passed its heyday by the beginning of the nineteenth century is found in the large inventories of thread found in local stores. Only Garrigou and Abat, among the merchants of St. Martinville, carried homespun thread. On the other hand William Maquillé offered his customers skeins of silk thread. More about textiles in a moment.

If oral tradition has kept alive the cottonade-clad Acadian, it has also perpetuated the misconception of the barefooted Acadian. Of course, it must be understood that this oral tradition is based solidly on the misconception that the Acadians of Attakapas were universally poor and lived in a classless society. Hopefully, this investigation has dispelled both notions, certainly with regard to the early nineteenth century. I was never able to quarrel with the idea that many people chose to go barefooted at certain times of the year and in certain circumstances because this is

³⁴When discussing this lack of musical instruments in home or store with my colleague Barry Ancelet, he suggested that perhaps the dance *ronde* or play-party song provided a tune for dances instead of musical instruments. He also suggested that musical instruments in Attakapas at the time may have been crude devices which were not thought worthy of appraisal. C. C. Robin recalled that the Acadians living along the Mississippi River loved to dance and did so even though music was provided by only "a couple of fiddles." C. C. Robin, *Voyage to Louisiana*, trans. Stuart O. Landry, Jr., (New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Co., 1966), 115. If the succession inventories are any indication of the number of violins in Attakapas, Robin may have been astonished. He says nothing about dancing in Attakapas.

³⁵For a listing of the various textiles, laces, ribbons, shawls, etc., see *Estates, 1804-1818*, Appendix 2. For a description of the textiles found in Attakapas, see *ibid.*, Appendix 3, Glossary of Textiles.

³⁶I found it interesting that many of the spinning wheels and looms were described as "old." This designation made me wonder whether the spinning wheels and looms were still in use or were relics of the past which had made their way to the attic. Also I did not find a spinning wheel or loom listed in a merchant inventory and presumably for sale.

³⁷Amend Broussard, one of the wealthiest persons in Attakapas, had three "old" spinning wheels in his home when the succession inventory was taken in February, 1818. It is somewhat difficult to imagine Mrs. Broussard sitting at the loom and weaving cottonade when the stores of St. Martinville were brimming with a broad variety of textiles. There is the suggestion, however, that slaves were sometimes spinners and weavers. It would be interesting to know whether their finished product was being used as wearing apparel for their masters or for their fellow slaves.

still a common practice in the South. But to suggest, as C. C. Robin did, that the Acadians were barefooted most of the time and wore shoes only on special occasions, seemed somewhat farfetched.³⁸ Indeed it was, if one looks carefully at the succession inventories.

One of the first things to become obvious is the relatively large number of leather tanners, making leather widely available in Attakapas. Next, one discovers that the region had a fair number of cobblers. Indeed, the merchants stocked cobbler's supplies--nails, hammers, pincers, etc. Then, there are some household inventories that actually specify the number of shoes and boots in the household, although this is not common because often all wearing apparel, including footwear, was lumped together and given a single appraisal value. But there can be no mistaking the fact that footwear, other than that found in the cobbler's shop, was readily available to everyone in the stores of Attakapas. One discovers that ladies' shoes were not only plentiful, but ladies had a choice of leather or silk.³⁹ Louis Lingo's inventory indicates that he had 65 pair of ladies leather shoes on hand and 48 pair of ladies' fancy shoes. William Maquillé had on hand 26 pair of ladies' moroccan leather shoes and 3 pair of spangled silk shoes.⁴⁰ Cobblers' inventories indicate that they had mens' shoes and boots for sale. The use of shoes and boots by the people of Attakapas is also supported by the number and variety of stockings on hand in the stores for both men and women. It was utterly surprising to discover that the ladies of Attakapas had silk stockings available to them as early as the first decade of the nineteenth century.

Robin's observation that the Acadians along the Mississippi River seldom wore clean clothes is interesting.⁴¹ There were large quantities of soap available in Attakapas and presumably on the Acadian Coast. Merchants of Attakapas had all kinds of soap available for sale, even something called "American Soap" which must have been stocked for the Anglo-American clientele. In addition, one Attakapas merchant even carried lady's perfume. There were the usual array of ribbons for the hair and a variety of combs for grooming, but one thing obviously missing from the inventories were brushes. One does not find a brush of any kind.⁴² But there were earrings, necklaces, and breastpins.

Now, let us look at the textiles available in Attakapas in the early years of the nineteenth century. During the course of the fifteen years from 1804 to 1818, there are 5 merchant inventories: Joseph Melançon's in 1807; Garrigou & Abat in 1810; Maquillé's General Merchandise, in 1812; Dominique Prévost's in 1813; and Louis Lingo's in 1818. The inventories indicate that these stores carried the following fabrics:

³⁸Robin, *Voyage to Louisiana*, 115. Certainly the Acadians, when in Acadia, had worn some sort of warm, water-tight footwear. I must assume that they did so when they were in exile in the British East Coast colonies. Why, suddenly, would the Acadians virtually abandon footwear. In oral tradition they did so usually for one of two reasons, they were too poor to have shoes or because of the warm Louisiana climate. What the raconteurs have overlooked, however, in their back-to-nature vision of the Acadians is that the very same warm Louisiana climate often requires one to wear boots or shoes. For anyone familiar with the countryside, Louisiana undergrowth is notorious for its tangle of briars and brambles that not only scratch the unprotected leg but can slice the flesh like a knife. Poisonous reptiles were everywhere in the early days of Attakapas, making snakebite on the bare foot or leg a real hazard. Moreover, as adept as a person might be with an axe, there was always the potential for accident. The prudent woodchopper, it seems to me, would have protected his feet and legs with boots. At leisure around the house, or at work around the house and the barnyard, Acadians and others probably were barefooted in warm weather, especially if the ground was muddy. I quickly learned as a small boy that it was easier to wash muddy feet than it was to clean muddy shoes.

³⁹When one finds so many shoes available in Attakapas, one has to wonder about that tired old story of the Cajun girls going to the dance with shoes in hand "because they did not want to wear out their shoes." Having known Louisiana in the days before there were many paved streets or roads, I wonder if the practicality of the young ladies rested more on the fact that they did not wish to arrive at the dance with muddy shoes.

⁴⁰*Estates, 1804-1818*, Estates 92 and 302.

⁴¹Robin, *Voyage to Louisiana*, 115.

⁴²The same can be said for brooms and mops. Although every household must have had a broom of some sort, these items seem never to have entered the inventories. Storekeepers apparently did not stock brooms and mops.

Bombazet	Bontane	Book Muslin	Brabant Linen
Bretagne	Broadcloth	Calico	Cambric
Casimir	Check	Chintz	Cholet
Colette	Coutil	Crepe Cerise	Dimity (Basin)
Drap (broadcloth)	Drap de Soie	Duck	Fil d'Epreuve
Fil de Rennes	Flamed fabrics	Gingas	Gingham
Guernsey	Guinea	Gurrah	Hessian
Limbourg	Listados	Marcella	Marly
Morlaix	Muslin	Nankeen	Organdi
Osnaburg	Pagne	Pekin	Piqué
Percale	Platilla	Russian sheeting	Satin
Seersucker	Taffeta	Velure	Velvet
Vesting	Voile	Worsted Stuff ⁴³	

For the spinners of legends, let me report that 4 of the 5 merchant inventories indicate cottonade on hand totalling 195 ells (an English textile measurement approximating 45 inches in length) or 243 yards of this material. But for weavers of fact, the merchant stocks of platilla and nankeen are astounding. Platilla is described by Florence Montgomery⁴⁴ as a well-bleached linen, first imported into America in 1693. All 5 Attakapas merchants carried large stocks of platilla as indicated by the five inventories. The total for the 5 inventories was 2,430 yards. Platilla sold for about 22¢ per ell.

Nankeen is interesting because of the Attakapas cottonade tradition. Nankeen was a cotton cloth of plain weave made from yellow cotton originally in China. In the West, nankeen was traditionally thought of as a yellow cloth. By 1750 the textile mills of Manchester, England, were turning out vast quantities of nankeen, but, because the yellow cotton supply could not keep up with the English mills, the British used white cotton and dyed it the shade of yellow of nankeen. By 1790 New York and New England textile mills were turning out huge amounts of Nankeen for domestic American use. These mills produced the fabric in the traditional yellow, but also in white, pale blue, and black. Montgomery notes that the fabric was extremely popular for use in making shirts, culottes, and trousers. All of the 5 Attakapas merchants carried large stocks of nankeen. To give some idea of the apparent popularity of this fabric, the total amount of nankeen in the 5 inventories amounted to 7,470 yards. Attakapas merchants carried the four basic colors of yellow, pale blue, white, and black. Nankeen sold for about 14¢ an ell (45 inch lengths) during the entire period under investigation.

⁴³For a description of these fabrics, see *Estates, 1804-1818*, Appendix 3.

⁴⁴Florence M. Montgomery, *Textiles in America, 1650-1870* . . . (New York: W. W. Norton & Co. [1984]).

There was also something called nankeen linge, which was a heavy nankeen suitable for making cotton blankets. It sold for 50¢ per ell. Attakapas merchants apparently carried large stocks of other fabrics, including calico, cambric, dimity, gingham, linen (other than platilla), seersucker, and velvet. Garrigou and Abat, alone, had 126 ells of velvet on hand in 1810. It sold for about \$1.00 per ell.

In conclusion, let me say that there is little doubt that Attakapas legends will continue to prosper, but the fact is that by the beginning of the nineteenth century a well-developed mercantile trade system between St. Martinville, New Orleans, Philadelphia and New York, and England and France had come into being. The people of Attakapas prospered during the 15 years from 1804 to 1818, as the records attest, and enjoyed, if they wanted to do so, a broad array of products which until now legend has largely succeeded in obscuring.

YELLOW FEVER AT FRANKLIN

[This article is taken from the *Abbeville Meridionale*, August 20, 1898]

Friday morning last the town was thrown into more or less excitement by the report that a death had occurred from yellow fever the night previous in the town of Franklin. That night the town council was called together in special session by the mayor, a Board of Health was formed, composed of the council and all resident physicians. A quarantine was declared against all points in St. Mary parish, and the constable was ordered to closely watch all trains and persons coming to town.

The Louisiana State Board of Health acted promptly Friday night and declared that:

"Whereas yellow fever has occurred in the town of Franklin, La., it is

"Resolved, That the parish of St. Mary is quarantined between the west bank of the Alchafalaya and the west parish line of St. Mary, about a miles east of Jeanerette station.

"Trains running between New Orleans and Texas and points beyond will not be allowed to stop in the section."

The State of Texas has also quarantined against the entire State of Louisiana, and no trains, freight or passengers from this State are permitted to enter and traffic on the Texas and Pacific and the Southern Pacific is at a standstill. A great many people have left Franklin, but no new cases have developed.

THERE IS A NUGGET OF TRUTH BURIED DEEP IN EVERY LEGEND

by
Hilda K. Gallassero

Napoleon Bonaparte knew and recognized the quicksilver quality of truth, and is noted for having pointed out that history is only a set of lies that's been agreed upon.

If history itself harbors untruths, what could one possibly expect from old family legends? The fact is that, with a little faith and patience—and a whole lot of persistence—you can terret out a nugget of pure unadulterated truth from legends, no matter how preposterous or far-fetched they seem.

And, with this thought in mind, let us consider the traditions, tales and tracks left behind of the first Louisianians of the family whose members today say their name is Meche.

The first one located was called Daniel Mietsch and he was from Wuerzburg, Germany. (Do not confuse it with the better-known Wurtemberg, unless of couse you can prove the original listing was in error.) When first we chanced across the name, we did not connect it with the Andre Meche of Attakapas District. But that was before we discovered the story of a strange old man who lived on the Teche and whom the Indians called Meche of the Teche. A single sentence in a rendition told by Maurine Bergerie in *They Tasted Bayou Water* made the connection.

It's since been discovered that the original Daniel Mietsch was called by many names including Matz, Metz, Metzer, Motsch, Masse, Massy and even Mace. In the confusion family names of Mayier, Mayeux, Mayer and Marques also occasionally masqueraded as Maas, Maacs, Masse or Massy. They are hard to untangle.

J. Hanno Deiler listed in *The Settlement of the German Coast of Louisiana*, Daniel Mietsch and says he found the name not on the 1724 census but rather in church records. He also says that the settlers of Law's second plantation were omitted from the record. It is therefore assumed that Jean Baptiste Masse of that area was also unlisted on that particular census. (We do not believe Jean Baptiste was a member of the Meche family line, but haven't checked further.)

It seems that the wife of D'Arensbourg of the German Coast might well have been the daughter or the sister of Daniel Mietsch, for as Deiler pointed out the German hissing sound such as "z" or "tz" (or tsch) would be represented by a makeshift "x" and that is why Mrs. D'Arensbourg signed her name "Metzerin" in the custom of all married German women of her time, adding the "in" to Metz—which is evidently what they were using for Mietsch in New Orleans at that precise time. It has since evolved into Meche.

Herr Karl Friederich was still a bachelor in 1724, indicating he and Marguerite must have wed shortly thereafter. Family tradition has it that Mietsch and La Chaise did not get along too well. Seems it had something to do with Mietsch/Masse and his business partner's dealings with Indian trade. (His partner was Antoine Bernard Dauterive and the two of them shortly theratier appear in Attakapas area records.) Daniel Mietsch, whose full name we suspect was Daniel Andre Mietsch, was a stubborn old German and he evidently packed up lock, stock, and barrel and about twenty of his favorite slaves, moved onto the Teche near New Iberia.

Maurine Bergerie in the book *They Tasted Bayou Water*, says that one of the first to settle in the Attakapas area was a strange old fellow named Masse. She mistakenly believed he was of a rich Grenoble family, but goes on to relate that he came into the area bringing with him about twenty Negroes "whom he treated more as his children than as slaves. These Negroes scarcely worked enough for their needs."

She goes on then to tell us that the old fellow lived in an open shack, slept on a bearskin stretched across boards and dressed only in deerskin and that his only utensils were a knife and a horn—"both of which he always carried with him."

It's easy to picture this typically stubborn old man, angered at some accusation concerning his business practices and, ridding himself of all vestiges of wealth (except for about twenty slaves); hiding out in the boonies with nothing but a few skins, a knife and a horn.

Of course Edward Mietsch (his brother, we believe) was the main business partner and he and Jean Antoine Bernard Dauterive operated a cattle range located east of the Teche in what has become Iberia Parish. But we know the strange old man who lived in the open shack and who the Indians called "Mietsch of the Tietsch" was Andre Meche, patriarch of the Meche families of Louisiana. Who knows? Perhaps the Teche was not named for a snake after all. Perhaps it was named for that sly, cunning old German, Andre Meche!

If you are up on your Iberia Parish history, then you know that Captain Antoine B. Dauterive (or D'Hauterive) contracted with some of the arriving Acadian families, giving each family for six consecutive years, a bull and five heifers. At the end of six years he was to receive the same number of animals in the same ages and sex as given, plus half of any increase in profits.

This contract is dated 4 April 1765, and the Acadians were the families of "Beausoleil" Broussard, Alexandre Broussard, Pierre Arconeaux and Victor Broussard.

The vacherie which Dauterive and Edward Meche operated had to be relocated after the arrival of the Acadians because they were trespassing their ranges. Those lands formerly used for their cattle range were given to the Acadians Dauterive sent under his contract.

The strange old man who'd come here with twenty slaves to live in an open shed comes across the pages of whatever renditions we've been able to locate as a likeable old fellow. Not only did he molycoddle his own slaves and turn up as godfather to a lot of their christenings, but he was also the "parrain" of Marguerite Broussard, daughter of "Beausoleil" Broussard and Marguerite Savole his wife. The child was born April 23, 1765 and her godmother was Isabelle Leblanc. (*Baton Rouge Diocese Vol. 1, p. 149*)

JEAN GUILBEAU REVOLUTIONARY ANCESTOR

by
Pearl Mary Segura

Jean Guilbeau (Guillebaut), the son of Joseph "dit Officier" Guilbeau and Madeleine (Marguerite) Michel of Port Royal, Acadia, was born in 1760 in Acadia after *le Grand Dérangement*, possibly at Restigouche, (Petite Rochelle) in northern New Brunswick, Acadia, near Quebec on the Baie des Chalevrs, at the mouth of the Restigouche River in Gaspasie, where his father was located in 1761.¹

Four years later Joseph had found his way with other exiled Acadians to the Attakapas District in Louisiana. Lyle Givens Williams tells us that "an early record of the group . . . is found in the archives of the Cabildo in a contract signed on April 4, 1765 [in New Orleans], by eight chiefs of the Acadians, 'chefs des Acadiens,' with Antoine Bernard Dauterive, a former captain of infantry who owned large tracts of land in the Attakapas around the present Lake Dauterive in Iberia Parish. Through this contract Dauterive promised to furnish to each Acadian family for six consecutive years five cows with their calves and one bull . . . All increase and profits were to be equally divided between M. Dauterive and them [this constituted the nucleus for the cattle industry of Southwest Louisiana] . . . The chiefs of the Acadians [were] Joseph Broussard, "dit Beausoleil," Alexandre Broussard [his brother], Joseph Guillebeau [Jean's father], Jean Duga, Olivier Thibodau, Jean-Baptiste Broussard, Pierre Arsineau, and Victor Broussard . . ."²

But Joseph Guilbeau, "dit officier" was not to savor the fruits of this contract, for he died on September 1, 1765, in the same raging epidemic which snuffed out the lives of the Commandant of the Acadians, Joseph Broussard, dit "Beausoleil," his brother Alexandre Broussard and other Acadians in the camp of the Acadians situated near St. Martinville, *le Poste des Attakapas*.³

Jean then a minor of five years of age, was taken care of by Charles and François, his older surviving siblings, who settled in what later became Lafayette Parish near the Arceneaux family in Township 8 South Range 4 East (the present day Carencro area).⁴

Thirteen years later, now eighteen years old and capable of taking on the responsibilities of an adult, Jean Guilbeau received a Spanish land grant on March 5, 1778, from Governor Bernardo de Gálvez. The grant "was for about 480 superficial arpents on both banks of Bayou Carencro being 10 x 42 arpents on both banks. This amounted to about 710.84 superficial acres for the tract." It was bounded on one side by the Michel Bernard grant. In addition, he made other land

¹Arsenault, Bona. *Histoire et généalogie des Acadiens*. Leméac, v. 2, p. 597, v. 6, p. 2502, 2503, Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records* Vol. 1, p. 259, Glenn R. Conrad, "The Census of Carencro-District of Attakapas, May 15, 1803," *Attakapas Gazette*, Vol. XI, No. 1, p. 39.

²Williams, Lyle Givens, "Some Effects of Acadian Settlement on the Pattern of Land Occupance in Lafayette Parish," *Attakapas Gazette*, Vol. VI, No. 1, p. 19, 20, 24.

³Hebert, I: 259

⁴Williams, VI 24.

claims. His brothers, Charles and François also received Spanish land grants.⁵

Perhaps Jean had received his grant for his participation with his older brothers, Charles and François, in the Attakapas militia. He is listed with them as "Soldars" (soldiers) in the Attakapas militia review roll on June 20, 1774, signed by the Chevalier de Clouet. Captain Augustin Grevemberg was the commanding officer. It is their inclusion in the review of the same militia, under the same officers, and under the general leadership of Governor Gálvez, on May 1, 1777, however, that qualifies all three as patriots of the American Revolution and thus the eligibility of their descendants to be invited to be members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution.⁶

On April 1, 1781, Jean Guilbeau's name appears just below Jean Mouton's in a general parochial census relative to the needs of the Attakapas church. It listed two individuals in Jean Guilbeau's household, 50 animals and 10 arpents of land cleared or in cultivation.⁷

Now well established, Jean Guilbeau married on July 9, 1783, Marie Geneviève Mouton, daughter of Salvator Mouton and Anne Bastarache, and sister of his neighbor, Jean Mouton, founder of Vermilionville, later renamed Lafayette. The marriage was short-lived, for she died in childbirth on August 18, 1784. The infant died 12 days later on August 30, leaving Jean a childless widower.⁸

So affected by this double tragedy was Jean that he remained a widower for four years; but on May 25, 1788, he took a second wife, Marie Jeanne Arceneaux of St. James on the Mississippi River, daughter of Pierre Arceneaux and Anne Bergeron. Thereafter, from 1789 to 1810 they were blessed with 14 children.⁹

In the General Census of the Attakapas Militia taken in 1794, Jean was listed as a First Corporal in the Fourth Company and as an Acadian of 36 years of age. Actually, he was 34.¹⁰

By 1800 he is recorded as owning 677 acres with a value of \$1000, but having no slaves in Grand Coteau in the County of Opelousas.¹¹

The Census of Carencro District of Attakapas, May 16, 1803, shows him as 43 years of age and holding 30 arpents, 400 head of cattle and 4 slaves.¹²

During the next month, Jean was indirectly and innocently involved after the fact in the shooting of Marguerite LeBlanc, wife of Louis St. Julien, on June 17, 1803. She died June 24, 1803.¹³

⁵ Glenn R. Conrad, *Land Records of the Attakapas District, vol. 1, The Attakapas Domesday Book: Land Grants, Claims and Confirmations in the Attakapas District, 1764-1826* (Lafayette, La., The Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1990), p. 10-11; p. 21, No. 71; p. 22, No. 388. Williams, Scroggs, *The Story of Louisiana* (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1924), p. 319.

⁶ S. A. R. *Spanish Records, Spanish-English War 1779-1793*. (Men under Gen. Don Bernardo de Gálvez and other records from Archives of the Indies, Seville, Spain. C. Robert Churchill, President, Louisiana Society, S. A. R.), p. 288, 290.

⁷ "Recensement Général et Etat de Recette relatifs aux besoins de l'Eglise des Attakapas Conformement à la délibération Paroissiale du 10^{er} Avril 1781," submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Theriot. *Attakapas Gazette*, Vol. XX, No. 1, Spring 1985, p. 32.

⁸ Hebert, 1257, 259, 421.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 12, 257-260.

¹⁰ "General Census of the Attakapas Militia, 1794," *Attakapas Gazette*, Vol. XVI, No. 2, Summer 1981, p. 62.

¹¹ Harold Prejoan, contributor, "Estimate of Lands and Slaves; Return of the Lands and Slaves of the County of Opelousas for the year 1800," *Attakapas Gazette*, Vol. IX, No. 1, p. 30.

¹² Conrad, *Census of Carencro District*, XI.39.

¹³ Robert St. Julien and Lou Anne St. Julien, trans., "Louis St. Julien Against His Enemies, His Accusers and His Assassins," *Attakapas Gazette*, Vol. XXII, No. 2, Summer 1987, p. 63.

On December 20, 1803 the formal transfer of Louisiana from France to the United States took place in a formal ceremony in the Place d'Armes (Jackson Square) in New Orleans. Shortly after, beginning in 1805, the United States government required land owners to provide proof of their proprietorship. Ownership had then to be proven by the claimants, whose successful claims were then to be certified by the new government. So Jean Guilbeau and his neighbors had to begin seeking certification, a lengthy process.¹⁴

Meanwhile a census of the Attakapas taken by Barthelemy Grevemberg, Chevalier de Clouet and Vincent Labbé and signed at Attakapas on September 29, 1809, revealed that Jean had a tract of land in the Quartier de Carencro with a frontage of 12 1/2 with an estimated value of \$2200 (the number of slaves were 11), another tract with a frontage of 12 valued at \$1800 and a third tract of 10 [arpents] valued at \$1000.¹⁵

Finally, the long-awaited confirmation of land claims that Jean had made in the early part of the nineteenth century was conferred in 1811 by the Commissioners of the Southwest Land District of Louisiana based in Opelousas, Louisiana, and later by Act of Congress. (The SLD of La. was "established by the American government after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803." It "comprised the former colonial Opelousas and Attakapas post") On May 24, 1811, Jean was issued a certificate for a 6 x 40-arpent-tract on both sides of the Vermilion River, which originally was part of a larger complete Spanish grant in favor of Antoine Barras, dated June 23, 1781.¹⁶

On May 24, 1811, the same day, he was issued a Certificate of Confirmation for a 6 x 40 arpent tract in the rear of land owned by himself, Jean Guilbeau, on the west bank of the Vermilion River. It was part of a larger 40 x 40 arpent tract originally conceded to Pierre Arceneaux founded on an order of survey to him dated April 12, 1786, during the term of Governor Estevan Miro.¹⁷

On October 21, 1811, Jean was issued a Certificate of Confirmation for the complete Spanish land grant (Township 8 South, Range 4 East, Sections 70, 71) dated March 5, 1778, conceded to him by Governor Galvez for about 840 superficial arpents (about 710.84 superficial acres), containing 10 x 42 arpents on both banks of Bayou Carencro. Louisiana Highway 182 runs along this property near the old Carencro bridge over the bayou which marks the boundary between Lafayette Parish (in the old Attakapas District) and St. Landry Parish (in the old Opelousas District). He was also confirmed for Township 7, South, Range 4, Section 127 in the Opelousas District on this date. Parts of this grant are still owned and occupied by some of Jean's descendants.¹⁸

During the next year, 1812, the birds began to leave the nest. Jean and Marie Jeanne's (nicknamed "Tontiche") fourth child, Justine, married on April 7, 1812, Joseph Hebert, son of Pierre Hebert and Charlotte Potier.¹⁹

Justine was the only one of the children to have the good fortune to enjoy the presence of her mother at her wedding, for Marie Jeanne Arceneaux, Jean Guilbeau's spouse of 27 years, died November 10, 1815 at age 40 years.²⁰

¹⁴Walter Prichard's *Outline of Louisiana Studies (Abndged)*, Edited and Expanded by Sue Eskin, p. 71, Conrad, *Land Records*... p. 1, 3, 12.

¹⁵Mary Elizabeth Sanders, contributor "Census of the Attakapas, 1809," *Attakapas Gazette*, Vol. X, No. 4, p. 195; see also Vol. X, No. 2, p. 92.

¹⁶Conrad, *Land Records*, p. 31, No. 116; p. 44, No. 85; 385

¹⁷*Ibid.*, p. 27, No. 101; Scroggs, p. 319.

¹⁸*Ibid.*, p. 21, No. 71, 388.

¹⁹Hebert, II: 405, 439, Conrad, "Census of Carencro," XV:39.

²⁰Hebert, II:18.

Jean, now 55 years of age, was once more a widower, but this time he did not remarry. He continued his life as a farmer and rancher, (he owned a large *vacherie*) with the help of his sons and his slaves, sharing his land and cattle with each child as he or she married, as was customary among the Acadians.²¹

His son, Alexandre, married on September 7, 1818, Marguerite Azelie Bernard, daughter of Jean Bernard and Marguerite Broussard.²²

Next to marry, on February 2, 1819, was (François) Placide to Julie Cormier, daughter of Anaclet Cormier and Magdelaine Richard.²³

Jean Guilbeau, Jr., married May 28, 1821, Marie Carmelite Castille, daughter of Jean Baptiste Castille and Julie Stelly.²⁴

François Adrien married September 1, 1823, Catherine Arthemise Nérault, daughter of André Nérault and Marie Louise Prudhomme.²⁵

Marie Leontine married February 27, 1827, Augustin Guidry, Jr., son of Augustin Guidry, Sr., and Adélaïde Robichaud, grandson of Pierre Guidry and Marie Claire Babin.²⁶

On April 22, 1828, Marie Clémence married Raphael Smith of Grand Coteau, son of Benjamin A. Smith of Frederick County, Maryland and Elizabeth Anne Hardey of Prince George County, Maryland.²⁷

The last child to marry (after the death of his father) on April 24, 1839, was François Lucien to Edvige (Hedvige) Mayer, daughter of Michel Mayer and Marie Mathilde Nérault.²⁸

Of the rest of the 14 children Marcelline, Hilaria, Cyprien and François did not marry. One son had died Sept. 17, 1814, at the age of 16 and a girl infant on May 23, 1801, at the age of 8 days.²⁹

Having lived a full life, at the age of about 71 years, Jean Guilbeau, Sr., an exiled Acadian who became a Patriot of the American Revolution by striking a blow on September 7, 1799, at Manchac against the British who had brought about his exile, died on March 4, 1831, on his Spanish land grant on Bayou Carencro.

²¹Conrad, *Land Grants*, xi.

²²Hobart, II:402, 64.

²³*Ibid.*, 407, 217.

²⁴*Ibid.*, 404, 183.

²⁵*Ibid.*, 404, 685.

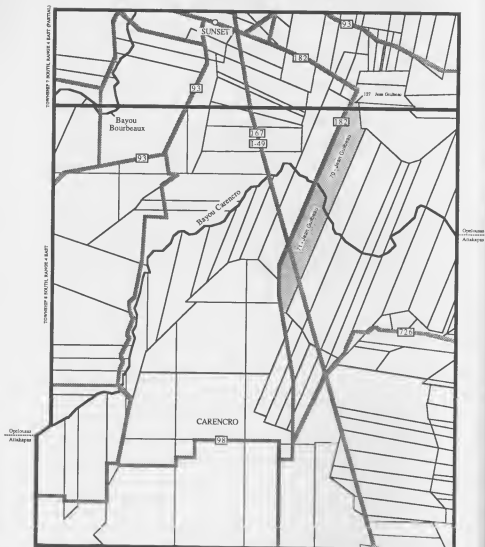
²⁶*Ibid.*, 406, 393, 253.

²⁷*Ibid.*, 406, 820, 817.

²⁸Hobart, III:301, 452; II:634.

²⁹Hobart, I:257; II:406.

TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 4 EAST (PARTIAL)
& TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 4 EAST
(IN THE ATTAKAPAS AND OPELOUSAS DISTRICTS)



map by Shane Bernard, Center for Louisiana Studies 1992

GENEALOGY

- I. Pierre Guillebaut, b. 1639 in France; arrived in Acadia about 1668; m. about 1668 in Port Royal, Acadia, Catherine Terriot, b. 1650, d/o Jean Terriot and Perrine Bourg
 - A. Marguerite Guillebaut, b. 1669; m. Martin Blanchard
 - B. Jeanne Guillebaut, b. 1670; m. Abraham Dugas
 - C. Hugues Guillebaut, b. 1673
 - D. Isabelle Guillebaut, b. 1675; m. Pierre Granger
 - E. Charles Guillebaut, b. 1677; m. Anne Bourg
 - F. Marie Guillebaut, b. 1682; m. Abraham Landry
 - G. Jeanne Guillebaut, b. 1685; m. Claude Granger
- II. Charles Guilbeau, b. 1677 in Port Royal, Acadia; m. about 1701 Anne Bourg, b. 1683, d/o Francois Bourg and Marguerite Boudrot.
 - A. Marie Guilbeau, b. 1702; m. (1) Joseph Foret, (2) Francois Girouard
 - B. Charles Guilbeau, b. 1703; m. (1) at Port Royal Nov. 24, 1727 Marie Comeau, (2) at Port Royal, Jan. 25, 1740 Marie Breau
 - C. Pierre Guilbeau, b. 1704; m. at Port Royal, Jan. 21, 1731 Marie-Madeleine Forest
 - D. Jean Baptiste Guilbeau, b. 1706
 - E. Alexandre Guilbeau, b. 1708, m. at Port Royal, Feb. 1, 1734 (1) Marguerite Girouard (2) at Saint-Pierre-les-Becquets Nov. 19, 1759 Elizabeth Breau
 - F. Joseph Guilbeau, b. 1710; m. at Port Royal Jan. 2, 1733 Madeleine Michel
 - G. Anne Guilbeau, b. 1712; m. Pierre Michel
 - H. Madeleine Guilbeau, b. 1712; m. Mathieu-René Forest
- III. Joseph Guilbeau, "dit Officier" b. 1710 in Port Royal, Acadia; d. Sept. 1, 1765 (SM Ch.: v.1, p. 11) near St. Martinville, Louisiana, m. at Port Royal Jan. 2, 1733 Madeleine (Marguerite) Michel, b. 1712, d/o Jacques Michel dit Saint Michel and Catherine Comeau. He was at Restigouche in 1761 and settled in Louisiana in 1765.
 - A. Marie (Anne) Guilbeau, b. 1733; d. 1806, Succ. dated Aug. 1806 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #201; m. at Restigouche, Jan. 25, 1761 Michel Bernard, b. 1734 at Beaubassin, Acadia; d. Aug. 31, 1809, age 74 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #580) (Succ. Mar. 26, 1810, SM Ct. Hse.: Suc. #54), s/o Jean Baptiste Bernard and Cecile Gaude of Beaubassin
 1. Jean Baptiste Bernard, b. about 1762 in Acadia; m. June 25, 1782 (SM Ch.: v. 2, p. 76) June 17, 1782 (SM Ct. Hse.: OA-3-11) Marguerite Broussard of Pointe Coupée, d/o Joseph Broussard and Marguerite Savoy of Acadia
 2. Pierre Bernard, b. 1762
 3. Michel Bernard, Jr., b. 1764, d. Nov. 17, 1801, age 34 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #249; m. June 10, 1788 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #15) Marguerite Broussard, b. Dec. 11, 1772 (SM Ch.: v. 1, p. 35), d/o Simon Broussard and Marguerite Blanchard
 4. (Jean) Francois dit Micheau Bernard, b. 1766; d. April 11, 1834, age 66 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 5, p. 38, #14) Succ. dated April 19, 1834 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #756) Succ. dated Aug. 12, 1834 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ. #282); m. (1) Jan. 3, 1790 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #38) Magdeleine Broussard, b. 1772, d. Sept. 28, 1813, age 39 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #850) Succ. dated Oct. 15, 1816 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #249), d/o Joseph Broussard and Marguerite Savoy; m. (2) Oct. 8, 1816 (SM Ch.: v. 6, OA-30-3016), b. 1784 in St. James Parish, d/o Gilles LeBlanc and Theotiste Godin; d. Oct. 12, 1828 at age 44 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #1931) Succ. dated July 31,

1829 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #614); m. (3) Nov. 19, 1829 (SM Ch.: v. 7, #142) Euphrasie Melancon, bt. May 10, 1795, age 2 mths. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #659), d. 1843 - Succ. dated Nov. 2, 1843 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #996); d/o Jean Melancon and Rose Lucie Doiron

5. Marie Anne Bernard, b. Sept. 7, 1770 (SM Ch.: v. 1, p. 19); d. Feb. 5, 1832 (Laf. ch.: v. 3, p. 10); m. Feb. 3, 1790 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #39) Olidon Broussard, s/o Francois Broussard & Pelagie Landry; b. Jan. 2, 1771 (SM Ch.: v. 2, p. 17)
6. Felicite Bernard, b. 1772; m. Nov. 23, 1790 Isaac Thibodeau (SM ch.: v. 4, #45) s/o Aman Thibodeaux & Gertrude Bourk
7. Marie Bernard, b. Dec. 4, 1774 (SM Ch.: v. 1, p. 43); m. Jan. 7, 1793 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #66) Andre Prejean of New Orleans, s/o Aman Prejean and Magdeleine Martin

B. Joseph Guilbeau, b. 1735; m. civillay at Halifax Feb. 9, 1763 (Anne) Charlotte de Saint Etienne de Latour, d/o Charles de Saint-Etienne de Latour and Marguerite Richard

1. Joseph Guilbeau, Jr., b. 1765; d. Aug. 12, 1822, age 54 years (Laf. Ch.: v. 1, p. 1) (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #451), dated Sept. 3, 1822, (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ. #25) dated Nov. 10, 1823; m. (1) Jan. 4, 1791 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #48) Pelagie Richard, b. 1769, d/o Joseph Richard and Anne Blanchard, d. Oct. 1, 1815, age 40 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #989) Succ. dated Oct. 10, 1815 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #215); m. (2) July 5, 1817 (SM Ch.: v. 6, #46) Julie Lucinda Vallot, d/o Etienne Vallot of St. Forgeaut (Frageau) of Bongona, France, Diocese of Orsera and Elizabeth Smith of Alexandria, Virginia; d. ? Succ. dated Mar. 17, 1852 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ. #687)

a. Joseph Guilbeau, III, b. Sept. 25, 1806 (SM Ch.: v. 6, #360)

C. Charles Guilbeau of Port Royal, Acadia, b. 1736; d. April 12, 1809 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #566) at Attakapas, Succ. dated Aug. 29, 1809 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #43; m. (1) about 1760 Anne dit Manette Trahan, who died about 1774

CHILDREN

1. Jean Charles Guilbeau, b. Dec. 15, 1771 (SM. Ch.: v. 1, p. 24)
 2. Ludvine (Divina) Guilbeau, b. 1772
 3. Emilie Guilbeau, b. Dec. 20, 1773 (SM Ch.: v. 1, p. 41)
- m. (2) Nov. 20, 1775 (SM Ct. Hse.: OA-1-46) at St. Martinville, Marguerite Bourque (Bourg), widow of Pierre Pitre, d/o Charles Bourg and Anne Boudrot of Isle St. Jean, Acadie; d. July 26, 1820, age 80 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #1374), Succ. dated Oct. 1, 1820 (SM Ct. Hse.: Suc. #375)

CHILDREN

1. Marguerite Guilbeau, bt. May 18, 1777 (Opel. Ch.: v. 1, p. 2); m. Feb. 7, 1804 Alexandre Baral (SM Ch.: v. 5, #9); m. (2) Feb. 28, 1813 Jean Baptiste Girard (SM Ch.: v. 5, #287)
2. Amand Guilbeau, b. May 2, 1778 (SM Ch.: v. 1, p. 58); d. Dec. 22, 1806, age 25 years (SM Ch.: v. 4, #452); m. Feb. 7, 1804 Marguerite Dugast (SM Ch.: v. 5, #8)

D. Anne Guilbeau, b. 1739; m. Feb. 5, 1760 Louis-Charles Babineau dit Deslauriers, b. 1723 s/o Clément Babineau dit Deslauriers and Renée Bourg

E. Rosalie Guilbeau, b. 1741

F. Maguerite Guilbeau, b. 1743

G. Felicité Guilbeau, b. 1745

H. François Guilbeau, b. 1749 in Acadia; d. Sept. 17, 1822, age 72 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #1539); Succ. dated Nov. 2, 1822 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #461); m. July 18, 1772 at Pointe Coupée, Madeleine Broussard, d/o Jean Broussard and Anne LeBlanc; b. about 1752; d. April 7, 1822, age 70 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #1503)

1. François Guilbeau, Jr., b. about 1773; d. Feb. 24, 1795, age 19 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #78)

2. Anastasie Guilbeau, b. June 2, 1774 (SM Ch.: v. 1, p. 41); m. (1) Jan. 9, 1793 Donat Breaux (SM Ch.: v. 4, #70); m. (2) Oct. 6, 1819 (SM Ct. Hse.: OA-33-3966) Joseph Haché of Nantes, France

3. François Louis Guilbeau, bt. May 5, 1776 (SM Ch.: v. 1, p. 45)

4. Joseph Guilbeau, b. Apr. 15, 1777 (SM Ch.: v. 1, p. 52); m. (1) Aug. 14, 1798 Magdeleine Hebert (SM Ch.: v. 4, #157); m. (2) Oct. 22, 1826 (Laf. Ch.: v. 1, #53) Clotilde Landry, wid. of Jean Templet

5. Marie Victoire Guilbeau, b. about 1780; m. (1) Jan. 8, 1800 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #188) Hypolite Savoye; m. (2) Aug. 12, 1817 (SM Ch.: v. 6, #52) Louis Hebert, père

6. Anna Guilbeau, b. Aug. 3, 1782 (SM ch.: v. 2, #68); d. Aug. 16, 1783, age 1 yr. (SM Ch.: v. 2, #122)

7. David Guilbeau, b. July 22, 1785 (SM Ch.: v. 3, #87); d. June 20, 1815, age 30 yrs. Struck by thunder, on the road to town at the bridge at Bayou Tortue (SM Ch.: v. 4, #960), Succ. dated June 19, 1820 (SM Ct. Hse.: Succ. #367); m. May 10, 1807 (SM Ch.: v. 5, #87) Adelaide Duhon

8. Serpahine Guilbeau, b. Feb. 12, 1788 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #316); m. (1) Aug. 25, 1807 Julien Babin (SM Ch.: v. 5, #95); m. (2) Sept. 10, 1821 (SM Ch.: v. 6, #258) Alexandre Broussard (SM Ct. Hse.: OA-34-4643)

9. Eloi Guilbeau, b. about 1791; d. Feb. 9, 1797, age 5 or 6 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #105)

10. Edouard Guilbeau, b. Sept. 20, 1792 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #597); d. Sept. 13, 1847, age 34 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 5, p. 168)

11. Julien Guilbeau, bt. June 4, 1795, age 6 mths. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #679)

12. Julie (Julia) Guilbeau, b. 1797, bt. Sept. 23, 1798, age 13 mths. (SM Ch.: v. 5, #82); m. Feb. 17, 1817 Joseph Therance Bienvenu Devince (SM Ch.: v. 6, #29), (SM Ct. Hse.: OA-30-3116), (SM Ct. Hse.: Mar.: v. A, p. 36)

I. (Basile)-David Guilbeau, b. 1752; d. Jan. 28, 1804, drowned at the Batterie Verte, village of Gavie in the commune of Riantec, Morbihan, Brittany, France; m. Oct. 15, 1783 at Miquelon, Victoire Gauthier, b. 1763, d/o Joseph-Nicolas Gauthier and Anne LeBlanc

1. Joseph Guilbeau, b. 1784

J. Jean Guilbeau, b. 1760 (see IV, below)

IV. Jean Guilbeau, b. 1760 in Acadia, d. Mar. 4, 1831 near Carencro at age 78 yrs. (Laf. ch.: v. 2, p. 106); m. (1) July 9, 1783 Marie Genevieve Celeste Mouton (SM Ch.: v. 2, #116); b. Sept. 15, 1765 in St. James Parish; d. Aug. 18, 1784 (SM Ch.: v. 3, #10), d/o Salvador Mouton and Anne Bastarache (sister of Jean Mouton, founder of Lafayette); m. (2) May 25, 1788 (SM ch.: v. 4, #14) (SM Ct. Hse.: OA-6-46) Marie Jeanne Arceneaux of St. James, b. 1767; d. Nov. 10, 1815, age 40 yrs. (SM ch.: v. 4, #1006);

d/o Pierre Arceneaux and Anne Bergeron of St. James on the Mississippi

CHILDREN OF JEAN GUILBEAU AND MARIE JEANNE ARCEAUX

- A. Marcelline Guilbeau, b. March 18, 1789 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #349)
- B. Hilaire (Hilaria) Guilbeau, b. June 11, 1791 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #349)
- C. Jean Guilbeau, Jr., b. 1792; d. ?April 23, 1895 at age 71 years? (CP Ch.: v. 1, p. 94); m. (1) May 28, 1821 (Opel. Ct. Hse.: OA-110) at age 29 yrs. Marie Carmelite Castille, b. April 30, 1805 (Opel. Ch.: v. 1, p. 355), d/o Jean Baptiste Castille and Julie Stelly, d. Feb. 12, 1843, age 38 yrs. (Opel. Ch.: v. 2, p. 34); m. (2) May 23, 1844 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 152) Marie Gotreau (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #54 Aug. 2, 1842) May 23, 1844 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 152); b. about 1824; d. June 2, 1846, age 22 yrs. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 69); m. (3) June 30, 1890 Eugenie Lejeune, widow of Placide Arabi (CP Ch.: v. 4, p. 161), b. Oct. 14, 1849 (Opel. Ch.: v. 4, p. 358), d/o Joseph Lejeune and Phelonise Hall (Ollen); d. Jan. 10, 1839, age 43 yrs. (CP Ch.: v. 1, p. 83)
- D. Justin Guilbeau, b. about 1793; m. Apr. 7, 1812 (SM Ch.: v. 5, #253) Joseph Hebert, s/o Pierre Hebert and Charlotte Potier
- E. Alexandre Guilbeau, b. about 1794 (see death record); d. Nov. 1, 1837, age 43 yrs. (Laf. Ch.: v. 3, p. 120), Succ. dated Apr. 29, 1844 (Laf. Ct. Hse. Succ. #497); m. Sept. 7, 1818 (SM Ch.: v. 6, #104), Marguerite Azelie Bernard, b. July 22, 1802 (SM Ch.: v. 6, #57), d. About 1843, Succ. dated July 29, 1843 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ. #485) under name of Marguerite Bernard, d/o Jean Bernard and Marguerite Broussard
 1. Alexandre Guilbeau, Jr., b. June 4, 1819 (SM Ch.: v. 7, #731); m. July 18, 1844 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 153) Francoise Savoy
 2. Marcelle (H)uranie Guilbeau, b. February 1821, bt. July 14, 1821 at age 5 mths. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 16); m. (1) Edmond Babineau, b. Mar. 21, 1822 (Laf. Ch.: v. 1, p. 4) d. June 10, 1854, age 32 yrs. (GC Ch. v. 1, p. 100) s/o Alexandre Babineaux and Cleonice Duga; m. (2) Nov. 20, 1855 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 70) Laisin Broussard, s/o Jean Ollidon Broussard and Marie Victoire Babineau
 3. Marie Oliva Guilbeau, b. Dec. 1822, bt. April 12, 1823, age 4 mths. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 28); d. Dec. 19, 1863, age 40 yrs. (GC ch.: v. 1, p. 150); m. Oct. 23, 1845 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 158) John Francis de Sales Smith
 - a. Marie Cecilia Smith, b. Apr. 9, 1851; bur. Jan. 23, 1886; m. May 25, 1871 in Granc Coteau, John Joseph Barry, b. Sept. 3, 1850; Bur. Mar. 5, 1924
 - (1) Rupert Joseph Barry, b. Apr. 13, 1878; d. Dec. 17, 1970; m. Feb. 14, 1905 in Houston, Texas Maud Corrine Smith, b. Mar. 24, 1878; d. Nov. 8, 1950
 - (a) May Celeste Barry, b. Nov. 1905; m. Aug. 25, 1926 in Beaumont, Texas Lee Desessarts Mizzi, b. Dec. 9, 1904; d. Apr. 4, 1975
 11. Maude Marie Mizzi, b. July 29, 1927; m. May 30, 1946 in Opelousas, La. Thomas S. Williams, b. June 21, 1923
 4. Sosthene Guilbeau, b. Aug. 8, 1824 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 41); m. Dec. 13, 1849 (GC Ch.: v. 2, p. 8) (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #318-a) Marie Onezia Bernard
 5. Clementine (Cleontine) Guilbeau, b. Jan. 1827, bt. Nov. 18, 1827 at age 10 1/2 mths. (Laf. Ch.: v. 3, p. 21); m. (1) May 23, 1844 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 152) Ozeme Alexandre Guilbeau, b. c. 1824, a. about 1858, Succ. dated Mar. 6, 1858 (Laf. Ct. Hse., Succ. #842); m. (2) July 2, 1861 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 153) Joseph

Bernard, Jr., s/o Joseph Bernard and Evelina Bernard

6. Adrien Guilbeau, b. Nov. 1, 1828 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 72); d. May 23, 1873, age 43 (Opel. Ch.: v. 2, p. 296), Succ. dated Nov. 16, 1873 (Opel. Ct. Hse. Succ. #3686; m. Oct. 1, 1872 (Opel. Ch.: v. 2, p. 422) Rosa Matilde Jobin
7. Joseph Guilbeau, b. Mar. 6, 1831 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 93); d. Oct. 26, 1843 at GC at age 12 years (Laf. Ch.: v. 3, p. 185)
8. Marguerite Guilbeau, b. Mar. 8, 1833 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 124); m. Dec. 6, 1849 (GC ch.: v. 3, p. 8) (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #618 1/2) Emilien Francois Bernard
9. Jean (Jervis) Guilbeau, b. About 1839; d. 1909; m. Jan. 4, 1859 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 114); Evelina Bernard of Lafayette, b. May 26, 1841 (Laf. Ch.: v. 5, p. 225); d. Dec. 5, 1926 in Carencro; d/o Francois Bernard and Marie Julienne (Zuline) Carmouche
 - a. Jean Edouard Guilbeau, b. Oct. 17, 1859 (GC Ch.: v. 2, p. 187); d. Jan. 16, 1860, age 3 mths. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 128)
 - b. Louis St. Claire Guilbeau, b. Apr. 15, 1861 (GC Ch.: v. 2, #211); d. May 22, 1862, age 15 mths. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 143)
 - c. Joseph Adam Guilbeau, b. Jan. 14, 1863 (GC Ch.: v. 2, p. 291; m. Nov. 3, 1884 Oct. 30, 1884 (Laf. Ct. Hse. Mar. #3795 1/2) (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 3) Azema Comeau, b. Dec. 7, 1865 (Laf. Ch.: v. 6, #11), d/o Pierre Televin (Edwin) Comeau and Nathalie (Anathalie) Richard
 - d. Eva Azelie Guilbeau, b. Feb. 5, 1867 (GC Ch.: v. 2, p. 303); m. Jan. 4, 1886 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 22) (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #3974) Joseph Edouard (Edward) Guilbeau, b. April 19, 1864 (GC Ch.: v. 2, p. 261), s/o Adolphe Guilbeau and Alzina Bernard
 - e. Francois Armand Guilbeau, b. Jan. 29, 1869 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 19); m. Jan. 29, 1889 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 69) Jan. 21, 1889 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #4385) Eresia (Rosia) Couvillon
 - f. Joseph Arthur Guilbeau, b. July 26, 1871 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 71); d. June 4, 1926 in Carencro; m. Nov. 2, 1895 (Carencro Ch.: v. 3, p. 20) (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #5447) Marie Estelle Guilbeau, b. Oct. 21, 1871 (BB ch.: v. 1, p. 173); d. Nov. 27, 1946 in Carencro, d/o Edmond Guilbeau and Emetilde (Metille) Bernard
 - (1) René Arthur Guilbeau, b. Feb. 18, 1897 (GC Ch.: v. 4, p. 32); d. April 2, 1985; m. Oct. 28, 1919 in Grand Coteau, Marie Stelly, b. Oct. 7, 1899 in Port barre, LA, d. Dec. 30, 1991 in Carencro, d/o Bernard Stelly and Azema Stelly (second wife), m. Aug. 22, 1892
 - (a) Lillian Ruth Guilbeau, b. Nov. 20, 1920 Carencro, La., m. Apr. 20, 1946, Laf. John Cathedral, Lafayette, Fred Benjamin Lafleur, Jr., b. Nov. 3, 1915 in Iowa, La., s/o Fred Benjamin Lafleur, Sr., and Mamie Daniel of Camden, Arkansas
11. Fred Benjamin Lafleur, III, m. Patricia Dalton
 - aa. Tracy James Lafleur
 - bb. Bryan Jacob Lafleur
22. Michael Huey Lafleur, m. Kathleen Bigge
 - aa. Alan Michael Lafleur

bb. Timothy James Lafleur

(b) Edna Guilbeau m. Freddie Lantier

11. Russell Lantier

22. Suzette Lantier

33. Stephen Jude Lantier

(c) Fred Bernard Guilbeau, m. Ola Thibodeaux

11. Carolyn Guilbeau

22. Kenneth Guilbeau

33. Ellis René Guilbeau

(d) Rowena Jeanette Guilbeau, m. Edmond Melançon, Jr.

11. Joy Marie Melançon

22. Edmond Melançon, III

33. Melanie Melançon

44. David Melançon

(2) Beatrice Guilbeau, b. June 17, 1899 (Carencro Ch.: v. 3, p. 392) d. Oct. 24, 1974, m. Raoul Camel

(3) Birdie Guilbeau, b. 1901; d. 1953; m. Albert Patin

(4) Charles Leo (Lee) Guilbeau, b. May 21, 1904 (Carencro Ch.: v. 4, p. 162)

(5) Lela Guilbeau, b. 1906; m. Walter Freeman

(6) Florence Guilbeau, g. 1910; m. Linic Patin

g. Marie Josephine Guilbeau, b. Mar. 19, 1874 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 87)

h. Joseph Adrien Guilbeau, b. Apr. 2, 1876 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 108), m. Jan. 22, 1902 (Carencro Ch.: v. 3, p. 95) Laure (Laurie) Guilbeau, d/o Valerie Guilbeau and Corine Guidry

i. Felix Guilbeau, b. Feb. 19, 1878 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 74); m. Oct. 25, 1899 (Carencro Ch.: v. 3, p. 65), Oct. 21, 1899 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #6223) Marie Regina Guilbeau, b. ? Mar. 1, 1877 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 37), d/o ?Edmond Guilbeau and Emetille Bernard

j. Marie Azema Guilbeau, b. Dec. 29, 1882 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 179)

k. John Guilbeau, b. Oct. 11, 1885 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 49)

10. Louis Guilbeau, b. Mar. 17, 1838 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 168); m. Dec. 12, 1866 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 227) (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #913) Marie (Alisse) Alice Guidry, b. Aug. 15, 1849 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 329), d/o Charles Adolphe Guidry and Clementine Guilbeau

F. Francois Placide Guilbeau, b. about March 1795, bt. May 3, 1795, age 2 mths. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #654); d. Nov. 1, 1865 at age 70 yrs. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 156) Succ. dated Aug. 4, 1866 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ.# 108); m. Feb. 2, 1819 (Opel. Ch.: v. 1, p. 335) Julie Cormier, bt. Nov. 20, 1802 at age 80 yrs. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 215); d. 1882? succ. dated Feb. 6, 1882 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ. #1652), d/o Anaclet Cormier and Magdeline (Celeste) Richard

1. Placide Durel Guilbeau, b. Nov. 14, 1819 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 3; d. Jan. 19, 1875 at age 56 or 57 yrs. (GC ch.: v. 1, p. 193), Succ. dated Jan. 21, 1875 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ. #1453); m. Apr. 29, 1841 (GC ch.: v. 1, p. 132) Apr. 28, 1841 (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #29, Clarisse Guidry, b. Apr. 8, 1826 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 53); d. June 22, 1871 at age 46 yrs. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 183), d/o Augustin Guidry and Melanie Martin

- a. Joseph Armas (Emar) Guilbeau, b. July 2, 1843 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 211), m. (1) Jan. 12, 1869 (BB Ch.: v. 1, p. 97) Louise (Louisa) Rees, b. July 20, 1850 (BB Ch.: v. 1, p. 30); d. Oct. 22, 1890 at age 40 yrs. (BB Ch.: v. 2, p. 116), d/o Henri Rees and (Laure) Aspasia Castille; m. (2) Jan. 5, 1901 (BB Ch.: v. 2, p. 226-A) (SM Ct. Hse.: Mar. #7806) Marie Aspasia Rees, b. Oct. 23, 1860 (BB Ch.: v. 1, p. 10), d/o Henry Rees and Laure Aspasia Castille

CHILDREN OF FIRST MARRIAGE

- (1) Albert Guilbeau, b. about 1869; m. Feb. 9, 1891 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 108) (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar #4626) Philomene Armante (Armance) Mouton, b. Feb. 16, 1873 (Laf. Ch.: v. 7, p. 95), d/o Alcide (Alcée) V. Mouton and Clemence Breaux
 - (2) Marie Laperle Guilbeau, b. July 5, 1871 (BB Ch.: v. 1, p. 16); m. Jan. 30, 1893 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 134) Jean Marie Baquet, b. Dec. 23, 1866 (Opel. Ch.: v. 6, p. 240), s/o Joseph Baquet (Baquet) and Clara Arseneaux
 - (3) Leon Saul Guilbeau, b. Oct. 6, 1873 (BB Ch.: v. 1, p. 207)
 - (4) Louis Maurice Guilbeau, b. Sept. 29, 1875 (Carencro Ch.: v. 1, p. 21)
 - (5) Louisia Guilbeau, b. Feb. 24, 1877 (Carencro Ch.: v. 1, p. 80); m. Jan. 24, 1901 (BB Ch.: v. 2, p. 237-A) (SM Ct. Hse.: Mar. #7839) Riessner (Risnaird, Risner) Broussard, b. about 1877, s/o Ursin Broussard and Alzire Pellerin
 - (6) Jean Durel Guilbeau, b. Sept. 7, 1878 (BB Ch.: v. 2, p. 50); m. Feb. 16, 1901 (Carencro Ch.: v. 3, p. 85) (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #6629) Marie Berthe Dupuis, b. Mar. 21, 1877 (Carencro Ch.: v. 1, p. 49), d/o Joseph Dupuis and Emerante Arceneaux
 - (7) Marie Therese Guilbeau, b. Mar. 7, 1880 (BB Ch.: v. 2, p. 88)
 - (8) Henry Guilbeau, b. Feb. 2, 1882 (BB Ch.: v. 2, p. 173); m. Dec. 27, 1902 (Carencro Ch.: v. 3, p. 105) (Laf. Ct. Hse. Mar. #6949) Louise (Mary Louisa) Broussard, b. Feb. 10, 1881 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 18), d/o Rosemond Broussard and Euchariste (C.) Guilbeau
 - (9) Daniel Reynold (Renald) Guilbeau, b. Sept. 2, 1883 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 22); m. Oct. 17, 1903 (Carencro Ch.: v. 3, p. 117) (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #7196 & 7197) Noela (Noeda) Broussard, d/o Rosemond Broussard and Eucharis Guilbeau
 - (10) Elia Carneira Guilbeau, b. Aug. 19, 1885 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 51)
 - (11) Gilles Tobias Guilbeau, b. Aug. 9, 1887 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 95)
 - (12) Jeanne Giselle Guilbeau, b. May 29, 1889 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 129)
- b. Jean Edgar Guilbeau, b. Sept. 30, 1845 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 246); m. Nov. 16, 1869 (GC Ch.: v. 4, p. 8) (Amelia Fanelia) Fanelie Bernard, b. Apr. 4, 1860 (GC Ch.: v. 2, p. 26), d/o (Hervilien) Ervilien Bernard and Elisa Bernard
- c. Placide Kleber Guilbeau, b. Dec. 7, 1849 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 326)
- d. Albert Guilbeau, b. Mar. 11, 1852 (GC Ch.: v. 2, p. 48); d. Jan. 24, 1853 at age 9 mths. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 94)
- e. Joseph Martin Guilbeau, b. Feb. 23, 1855 (GC Ch.: v. 2, p. 137); m. (1) Dec. 21, 1875 (Carencro Ch.: v. 1, p. 30) Marie Caroline Martin, b. Jan. 16, 1856

(Laf. Ch.: v. 6, #97); d. about 1885; d/o Andre Valsin Martin and Louise Cochrane; m. (2) Feb. 3, 1886 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 25) (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #3978) Julia Couvillon, d/o Siphroien Couvillon and Emilia Gremillon

- f. Joseph Wilfride (Willy) Guilbeau, b. Sept. 26, 1858 (Laf. Ch.: v. 6, #110); m. Feb. 20, 1882 (GC Ch.: v. 4, p. 82, #9) Emelie Elia Guilbeau, b. Aug. 27, 1865 (Laf. Ch.: v. 6, #71), d/o Adolphe Guilbeau and Alzina Bernard
- g. Marie Cidalise Guilbeau, b. July 18, 1860
- h. Corinne Guilbeau, b. about 1861; m. Jan. 27, 1878 (Carencro Ch.: v. 1, p. 88) Henry Mouton, b. May 21, 1852 (Laf. Ch.: v. 6, p. 106), s/o Louis Valsin Mouton and Marie Carmelite Dugas
- i. Marie Cora Guilbeau, b. Jan. 1, 1863, (GC Ch.: v. 2, p. 253); d. Mar. 29, 1889 at age about 25 yrs. (Laf. Ch.: v. 4, p. 315); m. June 11, 1879 (Carencro Ch.: v. 1, p. 113) Louis Mouton, b. Mar. 24, 1862 (Laf. Ch.: v. 6 #107) s/o Roche Mouton and Emilie Latolais
- j. Marie Claire Guilbeau, b. Nov. 6, 1865 (GC Ch.: v. 2, p. 294); m. June 1, 1882 (Carencro Ch.: v. 1, p. 149) Joseph Rees b. Feb. 27, 1858 (BB Ch.: v. 1, p. 52-insert), s/o Henry Rees and (Laure) Aspasie Castille
2. Clementine Guilbeau, bt. Apt. 12, 1823 at age 8 mths. (GC ch.: v. 1, p. 28); d. Succ.: Jan. 25, 1890 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ. #1881); m. Nov. 4, 1841 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 139) Charles A. Guidry, b. about 1821
3. Fanelie (Fanie) Guilbeau, b. Jan. 13, 1824 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 37); d. Sept. 30, 1842 at age 17 yrs. and 8 mths. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 58); m. Dec. 23, 1841 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 140) Adolphe Bernard, Jr., b. Dec. 9, 1818? (SM Ch.: v. 7, #665)?, ?s/o Jean Louis Bernard and Isabelle Aspasie Dugast
4. Valery Guilbeau, b. Apr. 7, 1826 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 52); m. Dec. 11, 1849 (GC ch.: v. 2, #4) Corine Guidry, b. Aug. 6, 1833 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 111), d/o Augustin Guidry and Angele Melanie Martin
5. Jean Guilbeau, b. Apr. 15, 1828 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 81); d. ?May 12, 1856 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 110), Succ. dated Nov. 7, 1860 (Laf. Ct. Hse. Succ. #910); m. Sept. 10, 1848 (Laf. Ch.: v. 4, p. 12) Aspasie Bernard, bt. July 6, 1828 at age 2 1/2 mths. (Laf. Ch.: v. 3, p. 55), d/o Jean Louis Bernard and Aspasie Dugat
6. Alphonse J. Guilbeau, b. June 5, 1830 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 86); m. Sept. 5, 1866 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 224) Aug. 18, 1866 (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #3098) Marie Blanche Guidry, b. July 27, 1849 (Opel. Ch.: v. 4, p. 360), d/o Alexis Onezime Guidry and Palmire Dupré
7. Honoré Placide Guilbeau, bt. Oct. 21, 1832 at age 5 mths. (Laf. Ch.: v. 4, #90); m. May 22, 1855 (SM Ch.: v. 9, #134) Anne Elizabeth Thomas, b. July 23, 1838 (SM Ch.: v. 8, #1697), d/o Dr. John Hacket Thomas and Arthemise Guidry
8. Edmond Guilbeau, b. Apr. 20, 1834 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 116); d. Jan. 30, 1884 at age 50 yrs. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 223); m. May 15, 1855 (GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 61) Marie Emetilde (Emetile) Bernard, b. May 11, 1837 (Laf. Ch.: v. 5, p. 63), d/o Ursin Bernard and Eloise Bemard
9. Felix Guilbeau, b. July 1839 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 169); d. Nov. 21, 1840 at age 1 yr. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 53)
10. Marie Edmonia Guilbeau, b. Aug. 22, 1841 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 188); m. Feb. 2, 1860

(GC Ch.: v. 3, p. 132) François Adolphe Broussard, b. Dec. 2, 1835 (SM Ch.: v. 8, #1021), s/o Don Louis Broussard, Jr., and Adelaide Broussard

11. Adolphe Guilbeau, b. about 1842; m. Apr. 25, 1861 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #704) (Laf. Ch.: v. 4, p. 203) Marie Alzina Bernard, b. Jan. 6, 1841 (Laf. Ch.: v. 5, p. 213), d/o Pierre Gerasin Bernard and Eugénie Suzanne Mouton

G. Cyprien Guilbeau, b. Oct. 8, 1796 (SM Ch.: v. 4, #822)

H. François Guilbeau, b. Nov. 11, 1797 (SM Ch.: v. 5, #92)

I. Onesime Guilbeau, b. 1798; d. Sept. 1814 at age 16 yrs. (SM Ch.: v. 4, #916)

J. Girl Guilbeau, d. May 23, 1801 at age 8 days (SM Ch.: v. 4, #233-A)

K. François Adrien Guilbeau, b. Oct. 9, 1802 (SM Ch.: v. 6, #49); d. Jan. 11, 1843, succ. (SM Ct. Hse. #974); m. Aug. 29, 1823 (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #38) Catherine Arthemise Neraut, b. Feb. 29, 1809 (Opel. Ch.: v. 1, p. 496), d/o André Neraut and Marie Louise Prudhomme

L. Marie Clemence Guilbeau, b. Sept. 1, 1805 (SM Ch.: v. 7, #14), m. Apr. 22, 1828 (Laf. Ch.: v. 1, #86) Raphael Joseph Smith of St. Charles in GC, bt. Mar. 17, 1805 at age 5 wks. (Opel. Ch.: v. 1, p. 351), s/o Benjamin Smith and Elizabeth Hardi

M. Marie Leontine Guilbeau, b. 1807?; d. 1868?, Succ. dated Jan. 18, 1868 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ. #1172; m. Feb. 27, 1827 (Laf. Ch.: v. 1, #63) Augustin Guidry, Jr., b. June 26, 1806 (SM Ch.: v. 7, #62), s/o Augustin Guidry, Sr. and Adelaide Robichaud

N. Marie Marguerite Guilbeau, b. Feb. 2, 1808 (SM Ch.: v. 7, #193)

O. François Lucien (Ursin) Guilbeau, b. May 2, 1810 (SM Ch.: v. 6, #983); d. June 26, 1850 at age 39 yrs. (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 82), succ. dated Feb. 3, 1854 (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Succ. #1812); m. May 2, 1839 (GC Ch.: v. 1, p. 126) Apr. 24, 1839 (Opel. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #Q-106) Marie Edwige (Edvige, Hedwige) Mayer, b. July 22, 1815 (Opel. Ch.: v. 2, p. 58), d/o Michel Mayer and Marie Mathilde Neraut

THE SLI PRESIDENTIAL CONTROVERSY OF 1940: A MICROCOSMIC VIEW OF THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN LONGISM AND ANTI-LONGISM

by
Jill K. Crooks

In his concluding chapter of *Louisiana Hayride*, Harnett T. Kane remarks: "Louisianians have learned to take their politics like their liquor; with a strong stomach for the new stuff, and with infinite zest and curiosity for bizarre combinations."¹ Kane's statement perceptively characterizes Louisiana politics during the 1930s when Huey Pierce Long was the virtual dictator of Louisiana. Long served as governor from 1928 to 1932, and United States senator from 1932 until his assassination in 1935. As governor, he achieved several significant accomplishments that included improved highways, free text books, and a system of care for the sick and elderly.² Huey's appetite for power,³ however, tarnished his achievements. He made a "mockery of the democratic process" through acts of corruption, which included the elimination of political threats, and the installment of his own "puppets" at the head of Louisiana's major universities, hospitals, and government institutions.⁴

Although Huey's assassination brought his reign to an end in 1935,⁵ his political power endured beyond his death into what Kane termed the "Louisiana Hayride,"⁶ perhaps the most scandal-ridden era in Louisiana history.⁷ Huey's successors "dipped into the trough of political corruption and personal enrichment."⁸ Huey's immediate successor, Oscar K. Allen, was a puppet of the Long machine.⁹ Richard W. Leche, who followed Allen, cost the state an estimated \$25 million to \$100 million dollars.¹⁰ Leche's reign of corruption, appropriately named the "Louisiana Scandals,"¹¹ led to his retirement in June of 1939, and his eventual indictment and conviction of

¹Harnett T. Kane, *Louisiana Hayride* (New York: William Morrow and Company, 1941), 427.

²Bennet H. Wall, ed., *Louisiana: A History* (Arlington Heights, IL: The Forum Press, Inc., 1984), 283.

³Joe Gray Taylor, *Louisiana* (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1984), 154-155.

⁴Michael L. Kurtz and Morgan D. Peoples, *Earl K. Long: The Saga of Uncle Earl and Louisiana Politics* (Baton Rouge: The Louisiana State University Press, 1990), 8.

⁵Wall, p. 284.

⁶Kane, *Louisiana Hayride*.

⁷Taylor, 165-166.

⁸Kurtz and Peoples, 8.

⁹Kane, 93.

¹⁰Kurtz and Peoples, 99.

¹¹Wall, 284.

mail fraud in 1940.¹² Earl K. Long, Huey's brother, succeeded Leche on June 26, 1939. Although he promised to "clean-up" the political affairs of the state, Earl Long failed to initiate the reform measures so urgently needed.¹³ As a result of the Scandals and the failed attempts of Earl Long's brief administration, the Long machine lost political support,¹⁴ which divided the state politically for several years afterwards into Long and anti-Long factions.¹⁵

The ensuing political contest between the Long and anti-Long factions touched all facets of life in the Pelican State, including a bitter struggle for education reform. Huey Long's policy toward education, which included free textbooks, lunches, and transportation, was a facade of reform and progress. In actuality, Huey's influence manipulated the educational system solely for the benefit of the Long regime.¹⁶ Although Earl Long made some reforms in the educational system, these improvements did not eliminate the politicization of all levels of education begun under Huey's administration.¹⁷ By 1940 Louisiana stood in the bottom ranks in national measures of education. This fact, along with the educational abuses of the Scandals, prompted reform candidates in Louisiana's 1940 gubernatorial campaign to lobby for improvements in secondary and higher education. Sam Jones of the anti-Long faction won the election, promising the electorate "free school books and free teachers—free from political control and interference."¹⁸

The degree to which the larger struggle between the Longs and anti-Longs penetrated every level of public administration in Louisiana is clearly illustrated in the presidential controversy that arose in one of the larger state colleges. Within months of Jones's election, a presidential controversy at Southwestern Louisiana Institute, located in Lafayette, challenged the reformer's professed educational policies. Edwin L. Stephens had served as SLI president from 1900 to 1938.¹⁹ In 1938 pro-Long governor Richard W. Leche replaced Stephens with his own representative, Lether E. Frazar.²⁰ Stephens had been a great asset to SLI, and many viewed his replacement with widespread skepticism.²¹ Many factors had revealed Frazar's incompetency and his obvious link to the Long faction. His academic record as an SLI graduate was poor. Also, while Frazar earned his master's degree at LSU, he failed to receive a doctorate, which raised questions regarding his competency to head a major college.²² Furthermore, fears of Frazar's ties with the Long faction did not ease after he became president. Within a year of his appointment, Governor Earl K. Long instructed Frazar to take a ninety-day leave of absence from SLI in order to head the Highway Commission.²³ Frazar resigned the position after one week in office, however, suddenly

¹² *Dictionary of Louisiana Biography*, s. v. "Leche, Richard W."

¹³ Wall, 284.

¹⁴ Kurtz and Peoples, 2.

¹⁵ Taylor, 167.

¹⁶ Wall, 297-298.

¹⁷ Kurtz and Peoples, 83.

¹⁸ "Jones Pledges to End Dictatorship if He is Elected," *The (Baton Rouge) Morning Advocate*, 8 October 1939, 26.

¹⁹ "Dr. Stephens Retires from SLI," *(Lafayette) Daily Advertiser*, January 3, 1938, 1.

²⁰ "President L. E. Frazar Welcomed As New Head of SLI," *Daily Advertiser*, January 27, 1938, 1.

²¹ "Historical Epoch Closes," *Daily Advertiser*, USL Papers Scrapbook, 34.

²² *Dictionary of Louisiana Biography*, s. v. "Frazar, Lether E."

²³ "L. E. Frazar Named to Succeed Abernathy as Highway Head," *Daily Advertiser*, July 18, 1939, 1.

convinced that his duty was with SLI.²⁴ Ironically, Frazar's seven days as head of the Highway Commission led to charges of alleged misconduct concerning the purchase of trucks. Although cleared of the charges,²⁵ Frazar's sudden appointment by Long and quick resignation from the Highway Commission demonstrated his obvious connections with the Long faction.

Without the support of the Long machine, Frazar probably would have never secured such an important position as the presidency of SLI. Furthermore, it is likely that Frazar, along with the other college presidents appointed during the Leche administration, realized Jones's reform policies would not tolerate a Long representative at the head of Louisiana's educational institutions, and so decided to resign.²⁶ The resignation of Lether E. Frazar after only two years in office and only a few months after anti-Long representative Jones took the governorship stimulated many accusations and questions regarding the Long influence in Louisiana politics. Unfortunately SLI found that it was not immune to factional politics. As a result, the larger struggle between the Longs and the anti-Longs caused the presidential controversy at SLI.

Immediately following Frazar's resignation, the Louisiana State Board of Education appointed a special committee to study the situation at SLI. The committee members included Chairman Frank A. Godchaux, H. H. Holloway, John P. Graham, Jacob H. Morrison, and Walter Teeckel.²⁷ The committee proposed an open hearing to recommend a successor to Frazar. This task, however, became difficult to perform. Although Frazar submitted his resignation, he remained a viable candidate for the presidency.²⁸ The Board's suspicions about Frazar's character and competency made it reluctant to reappoint him. The committee also received numerous telegrams and letters reinforcing their suspicions. One particular letter, written by local Lafayette businessman C. B. Billeaud, disclosed alleged threats from Frazar over Billeaud's failure to endorse him as president.²⁹ Another letter from O. L. Hebert of the Northwestern Mutual Fire Association described Frazar as a "shady" character, choosing men of his own "political bent" to run SLI. Hebert also urged the Board to halt the "three ring circus" at SLI by answering Jones's call for reform.³⁰ Frank A. Godchaux also received several anonymous letters. One in particular accused Frazar of being a "crook" and pointed to his similarities with Hitler and Mussolini. Another letter indicated that many faculty members at SLI also approved of Frazar's resignation. One letter commented: "The faculty as a whole are delighted over the move, and many are refusing to even donate to a parting present for the man."³¹

Although the Board practically eliminated any possibility of Frazar's reappointment, its problems intensified as the result of a controversy between two Lafayette newspapers, the *Daily Advertiser*, which opposed Frazar's removal, and the *Lafayette Progress* which supported Frazar's resignation. The *Advertiser* did not openly support the Long machine, but its mild coverage of

²⁴"L. E. Frazar Resigns Post As Head of Highway Commission," *Daily Advertiser*, July 24, 1939, 1.

²⁵Florent Hardy, "A Brief History of the University of Southwestern Louisiana 1900-1964" (Master's Thesis, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1969), 72.

²⁶*Ibid.*, 74.

²⁷"Lether E. Frazar Resigns As President of Southwestern," *Daily Advertiser*, August 2, 1940, 1.

²⁸Frank A. Godchaux memo entitled "Appointment for President at SLU" Frank A. Godchaux Collections, Southwestern Archives, Dupre Library, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette (hereafter Frank A. Godchaux Collections).

²⁹C. B. Billeaud to Frank A. Godchaux, 29 August 1940, Frank A. Godchaux Collections.

³⁰O. L. Hebert to Frank A. Godchaux, September 2, 1940, Frank A. Godchaux Collections.

³¹Anonymous letter, Frank A. Godchaux Collections.

the Louisiana Scandals raised questions regarding its support of either Long or anti-Long politics. The *Advertiser* launched its journalistic campaign against the Board in an article entitled "How About Southwestern?" The *Advertiser* opposed the "open meeting" to be held on October 3, 1940, which seemed to incorporate rather than dismiss politics in education. The paper also observed that the Board removed Rexford C. McCullough, Dean of Men at SLI, for illegal political activity while reinstating three professors at Louisiana State Normal College in Natchitoches, who were also subjects for removal on the basis of corrupt activities. The *Advertiser* observed that the Board kept those teachers at Natchitoches, Huey Long territory, but dismissed McCullough of Lafayette, anti-Long territory. The *Advertiser* thus suggested that in this instance the Board practiced the same political games it purported to eschew. In addition, the *Advertiser* pointed out that W. B. MacMillan, a member of the Executive Committee as SLI, was also an employee of Chairman of the Board Frank A. Godchaux. The article questioned the Board's ethics when one of its members employed an individual who frequently reported to the Board about SLI information. In its closing arguments the *Advertiser* remarked that if the goal of the new administration was to eliminate politics from the education system, Frazar had no basis on which to be dismissed. Frazar had contributed to the physical growth of SLI and therefore should be allowed to continue the progress he had started at the college.³²

Befriending the board, the *Lafayette Progress* refuted the *Advertiser's* statements in an article dated September 26, 1940. This article argued that the comments made by the *Advertiser* were not only offensive to the Board of Education, but also to the entire Jones administration. Furthermore, the *Progress* argued that the "open meeting" was a democratic measure in comparison to the fact that when Edwin L. Stephens retired in order to install a Leche man at SLI, there was no meeting or Board to recommend or appoint a new president. The *Progress* argued that ironically there had been no outcry from the *Advertiser* in 1938, claiming that political influences were employed to retire Stephens. Why then, the *Progress* asked, was the *Advertiser* now so opposed? In answer to this rhetorical question, the *Progress* claimed that perhaps it was "good" politics for the *Advertiser* to stand with Frazar when faced with the prospect of losing the "special favors" Frazar gave it. These favors included the opportunity to receive SLI publicity items before any other newspaper. The *Progress* concluded by quoting Jones's inaugural address in which Jones pledged to accept the criticism and misunderstandings that were inevitable in a democracy. The *Progress* doubted whether the *Advertiser* could speak so humble and so consistently in regard to its own purposes and policies.³³

Following the lead of the *Lafayette Progress*, the Board of Education and W. B. MacMillan took defensive measures against the *Advertiser's* accusations. Although none of the Board members openly refuted the *Advertiser's* criticisms, Board President H. H. White did make a few comments to Godchaux and Superintendent of Education John E. Cox. White pointed out that the sole function of the committee was to investigate and make recommendations for the presidency. These recommendations were to be submitted to the entire Board of Education, who would then select a successor to Frazar. The Board, rather than the committee, selected the president, a clearly ethical move the *Advertiser* misunderstood.³⁴ W. B. MacMillan also defended

³²"How About Southwestern?" *Daily Advertiser*, September 14, 1940, 1.

³³"What's the Matter With the Advertiser?" *Lafayette Progress*, September 26, 1940, Frank A. Godchaux Collection, Dupre Library, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.

³⁴Letter from H. H. White, President of the Louisiana State Board of Education, to Frank A. Godchaux and Superintendent of Education John E. Cox, September 18, 1940, Frank A. Godchaux Collection.

the Board by condemning the *Advertiser* for acting as the sole "judge and jury" over SLI affairs. In a letter written to T. M. Callahan, Editor of the *Advertiser*, MacMillan claimed that the Board's actions were ethical because the committee was willing to hear suggestions from any interested party.³⁵

In spite of the battle between the *Daily Advertiser* and the *Lafayette Progress*, the committee held its "open meeting" on October 3, 1940. On October 3 and 4 the committee heard numerous statements and recommendations made from a multitude of individuals and delegations. It allowed reporters in the committee room as long as they refrained from asking questions. A second meeting took place in Baton Rouge on October 17 to review all records and any personal letters or recommendations received by individual committee members.

After three months of controversy and deliberations in the hopes of initiating the policy set forth by the Jones administration, the committee recommended two candidates, Joel L. Fletcher and Harry L. Griffin, both of SLI. The committee found both men to be of "high moral character." Griffin, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, had been employed at SLI for twenty-eight years.³⁶ Throughout the three months of deliberations, however, the committee received numerous letters and telegrams from all over the state endorsing Fletcher for the presidency. The smaller towns and communities of Louisiana supported Fletcher because Southwest Louisiana was an agricultural area. Therefore, as Dean of the College of Agriculture, many people saw Fletcher was the logical choice for the presidency.³⁷ Fletcher also had the support of numerous local businessmen and prominent leaders of the Lafayette area, including Godchaux. Godchaux remarked on more than one occasion that Fletcher's "appreciation for the cultural values in education" would be highly beneficial to the growth of SLI.³⁸ Griffin received support primarily from Lieutenant Governor Marc Mouton and his followers. Mouton supported Griffin because of his educational qualifications, various organizational activities, and civic work. The lieutenant governor also pointed out that Griffin had represented SLI at numerous educational conferences throughout the South, and Griffin had made valuable contacts with leading educators.³⁹

After considerable deliberation the committee reported to the Board on October 14, 1940. The committee recommended Joel L. Fletcher to succeed Frazar, "because of his executive ability, his capacity for organization, his aggressiveness, his sympathy with and ability to inspire students and especially because of his grasp of the cultural and economic needs of the section of the state served by this institution" The committee also pointed to the fact that Fletcher had contributed greatly to the reorganization of the College of Agriculture. As a result of Fletcher's efforts, student membership in the College of Agriculture increased from one student in 1923 to approximately 600 students in 1940. In regard to Griffin, the committee felt that Griffin's scholarly qualities, previous training, and natural abilities would be more valuable to the Administration Department. The committee thus recommended Griffin to be Dean of Administration. The committee commented that both Fletcher and Griffin would "cooperate with each other to the

³⁵Letter from W. B. MacMillan of the Executive Committee of SLI to T. M. Callahan, Editor of the *Daily Advertiser*, September 17, 1940, Frank A. Godchaux Collections.

³⁶Frank A. Godchaux "Committee Report." Frank A. Godchaux Collections, Dupre Library, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.

³⁷"More Names Present for Presidency of Southwestern" *Daily Advertiser*, October 4, 1940, 1.

³⁸Letter from Frank A. Godchaux to W. Prescott Foster of the State Highway Commission, October 22, 1940. Frank A. Godchaux Collections.

³⁹"More Names Present for Presidency of Southwestern," *Daily Advertiser*, October 4, 1940, 1.

benefit of all concerned," and this union would "bring harmony and cooperation throughout the school and would be met with general public approval."⁴⁰

With the committee recommendation in hand, the board unexpectedly deferred immediate action on SLI matters. The committee as well as the Lafayette community disagreed with the Board's decision. In a letter directed to the Board, Godchaux strongly disapproved of the Board's delay, stating: "... it is time for this Board to take definite action. It appears to the public that we are just dilly-dallying with our young people which suggests political or personal motives, or both."⁴¹ In spite of its overwhelming support of the Board, the *Lafayette Progress* also prodded that body to take immediate action, "for the better interests of the college, the community, and South Louisiana as a whole"⁴² In the face of overwhelming pressure, the Board appointed Joel L. Fletcher president of SLI on November 14, 1940.⁴³

The Lafayette community and surrounding areas responded favorably to Fletcher's appointment as president of SLI. The Board received numerous congratulatory notes commending their choice.⁴⁴ The *Lafayette Progress* praised the decision of the Board noting that Fletcher would "ably maintain and expand Southwestern's high academic standing."⁴⁵ Although it did not overwhelmingly applaud Fletcher's appointment, the *Daily Advertiser* refrained from discourteous remarks and reflected on Fletcher's admirable qualities as a "pioneer in the modernization of southwest Louisiana farmers," and "his active duty in civic affairs."⁴⁶

One cannot assume that after the Frazar administration SLI began with a "clean slate." Political influences within the educational system have been a continuing factor in Louisiana history. Despite the college's brief crisis in 1940, SLI continued the prosperity begun under the Stephens administration. In 1960 SLI became a major university when the legislature changed the college's name to the University of Southwestern Louisiana. By the time of Fletcher's retirement in 1966, SLI had made many great accomplishments, some of which included an ROTC program, the College of Nursing, Blackham Coliseum, and Acadian Culture Center, and the Graduate School.⁴⁷

For most students attending USL today, the brief administration of Lether E. Frazar has little significance. But in relation to the larger Long influence of the 1930s, Frazar's administration provides an important example of the powerful domination that the Long era has had on Louisiana. Longism has been an integral part of Louisiana's history, and the SLI encounter with it provides an important example of the depths to which such influence infiltrated. Whether the era helps Louisiana learn from the lessons of the past or provides a colorful storyline, Louisianians will never cease to find a touch of the Long era in their history.

⁴⁰Frank A. Godchaux "Committee Report," Frank A. Godchaux Collections.

⁴¹Frank A. Godchaux personal letter to the Louisiana State Board of Education, Frank A. Godchaux Collections.

⁴²The *Lafayette Progress*, 24 October, 1940, Frank A. Godchaux Collections.

⁴³Joel L. Fletcher is Appointed President of Southwestern," *Daily Advertiser*, November 16, 1940, 1.

⁴⁴Various letters from the Frank A. Godchaux Collections.

⁴⁵"Choose Dean Fletcher," *Lafayette Progress*, November 24, 1940, Frank A. Godchaux Collections.

⁴⁶Joel L. Fletcher is Appointed President of Southwestern," *Daily Advertiser*, November 16, 1940, 1.

⁴⁷*Diamond Jubilee of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, "University Years,"* Dupre Library, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.

JOEL LAFAYETTE FLETCHER THE PRESIDENCY, 1940-1965

by
Alma B. Stuller

[Editor's Note: The following article is printed with the kind permission of Mrs. Alma Stuller. The article, incorporating some small changes, is Chapter 3 of Mrs. Stuller's M.A. thesis in History entitled "Joel Lafayette Fletcher, 1897 to 1972.]

The first knowledge Fletcher had of being named president was a telephone call from his friend Gaston Horalst of Sunset, Louisiana. Horalst had been called by Frank Godchaux, Sr., as soon as the Board had voted. Within minutes other congratulatory calls came from Welton Mouton, Gus Trahan, Lionel Jeanmard, and Godchaux. Godchaux visited Fletcher the following morning, on his way home to Abbeville. As they drank coffee, he said, "What I wanted to tell you was that H. H. White, who had been a loyal Frazar man, voted for you, then turned and told me, 'Now I hope those s.o.b.'s in Grant Parish will be satisfied.'" Godchaux advised Fletcher not to forget people like those in Grant Parish, "You know you are going to need loyal friends more than ever now." Fletcher was pleased to tell this to his father, who was very proud of his friends and kin in Grant Parish who had supported his son. Fletcher's mother and sister, Bill, had not been in favor of the presidency. They felt that he could do more good teaching agriculture. When he phoned his mother the news, she said, "Well, Joel, that is good—but do take care of your health. And now how are the children?" Fletcher was particularly happy to tell his sister, Frances, long time professor of English at Louisiana Tech. Her congratulations made for humbleness, "Joel, I think it a pity to waste scholarship and a scholar in any administrative position. I think a college president should have a strong back and a thick skin, and I know you will be a good one." He spent the six weeks between his election on November 16, 1940, and taking office on January 1, 1941, on the farm, talking as little as possible to his colleagues.¹

On New Year's Day, 1941, Joel L. Fletcher officially assumed the office of president of Southwestern Louisiana Institute. On the campus the event was hardly noticed. The Fletchers' wait for word from the Frazars about the transfer of office and residence had been futile. On this day Fletcher learned that Frazar was in New Orleans attending the Sugar Bowl game. With Frazar were George and Stewart Bonnet, Tom Cambre, and Harold Demanade, the campus maintenance staff. No keys or message had been left for Fletcher. At noon the Fletchers decided to wait no longer. They called Andrew Broussard, fireman and locksmith, who let them into the mansion provided for the president. They liked what they saw and secured from the Whittington place, where they had been staying, enough bed linen to spend the night. The Bonnets returned the next day and were probably surprised to find the mansion occupied. However, the incident was

¹Fletcher Papers, Personal, Box 34, Southwestern Archives and Manuscripts Collection, Dupré Library, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, La.; hereafter SAMC.

never mentioned. Actually the Frazars had not lived there for months before Frazar resigned. But on Christmas of 1940, while Mr. Fletcher was waiting to take over, Frazar entertained at the mansion all his family, including Governor and Mrs. Jones.²

The Georgian mansion, probably the handsomest home in Lafayette, quickly became home for the Fletchers. Built by Frazar's administration, it had been built on the site of the old frame house that the Stephens family occupied for thirty-eight years. At this time Lorraine and Ellen were in college, Flo in high school, and Joel III in kindergarten. Mr. Fletcher left the management of the house to Mrs. Fletcher. He was busy with the new, and sometimes unpleasant, tasks of administration. He and Joel, who loved the wide open spaces of the Whittington farm, were not as happy here as the women. Joel and his old, shaggy, black dog, Lucky, were here, there, and everywhere on the campus. They were most likely to show up behind a tree or bush when a couple attempted a quick kiss. Mrs. Fletcher tried, in the interest of a clean house, to get the children, especially Flo and Joel, to use the back staircase rather than the graceful, winding front one. It seemed that their hands were forever sticky with food or perspiration. One afternoon Mr. Fletcher, coming in the back door, as Mrs. Fletcher came out of the downstairs living room, saw Joel come from the butler's pantry and start up the front stairs. When Joel saw his parents, he became excited, fell, began crying, and declared, "Daddy, let's go home! I don't like this damn old house anyhow." From then on the house was home—not a museum. Despite good care, however, Joel, who was frail—perhaps from a penicillin reaction—was to be responsible for their moving back to the Whittington home on two occasions. But Joel was as friendly and poised as his mother had been as a child and enjoyed the many people who visited the house.³

It was with great care that Fletcher planned and executed a solid foundation in staff, curriculum, and plant that was to serve his administration well.⁴ He disagreed with a former student who advised him, "Prot, de day of de cow is gone. Dis is de day of oil." Fletcher aspired for the day of an educated Louisiana. As important as oil is to the economy, he felt that by education alone could Louisiana hope to thrive. Oil like timber before it, could be a passing thing. The way lay in education.⁵

A good school is a product of good teachers. An unusual situation concerning teachers was an immediate problem. During Frazar's lame duck period of office, he had succeeded in getting the State Board of Education to approve some ten or twelve new faculty members for Southwestern. Since it would seem that these members were Frazar supporters and hence anti-Fletcher, an awkward situation ensued. Prior to the first Board meeting Fletcher attended, the Board's president, Dr. Rufus Harris, offered to have these teachers dismissed. It was a great temptation to accept the offer, but he wisely decided to try to work with these people. Most of this group proved to be cooperative and became Fletcher's friends, or sought employment elsewhere.⁶

Fletcher began staffing in the field he knew best and thought most important, agriculture. Man must eat to live; hence food production is basic. It was necessary to name someone to

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴*Faculty Handbook* (USL, September, 1968), p. 7.

⁵Joel L. Fletcher, *Louisiana Education*, VI, No. 338, "John Baptiste Francini, Jr., One of the Most Respected Professors of the L. S. U. College of Agriculture."

⁶Fletcher Papers, personal, Box 34, SAMC.

replace himself as Dean of the College of Agriculture, which was composed of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Home Economics. He wisely chose Thomas Joseph Arceneaux. Arceneaux had a good farm background and was said to have been the best scholar ever to enroll at Texas A and M's graduate school. When he assumed the deanship, he saw the positions of vocational agricultural teachers and county agricultural agents being filled by LSU graduates. Thirty years later his school produced students capably filling such jobs.⁷ Fletcher's first official act as newly elected president was the employment of dynamic Ira S. Nelson as Assistant Professor of Horticulture. Before Nelson's untimely death in an automobile accident in 1965, Southwestern became internationally known as an outside arboretum, especially noted for its Louisiana iris, azalea, and camellia propagation.⁸

Fletcher was also to build a proficient staff in fields other than agriculture. Shortly after his appointment he chose Joseph A. Riehl as Dean of Men to replace Rex McCullough, who had left Southwestern to qualify for the 1939 legislature. Fletcher had first heard of Riehl as an able debator for Cathedral School. The first time he heard him speak Riehl was vice president of the student body at Southwestern and presiding over a banquet honoring athlete Christian Keener Cagle. He was impressed and told Mrs. Fletcher, "I'll put my money on the little man's future rather than the hero we are honoring tonight." Perhaps Riehl was heaven sent; Miss Edith Dupré once told Fletcher that he could attribute any special good fortune to his mother's prayers. Riehl was to become a "giant in academic circles" and Fletcher's "trusted right hand in administration." Fletcher considered his administration not as a Fletcher one but as a Fletcher-Riehl one. Riehl was efficient in smoothing out problems for the university. Many times, by his pleasant French suaveness, he converted enemies made by Fletcher's Anglo-Saxon brusqueness into friends.⁹

The College of Education had been reorganized in the 1939-40 session. Shortly after Fletcher assumed the presidency in 1941, Dean Fuller M. Hamilton became incapacitated due to illness. To replace him, President Fletcher appointed Maxime Daniel Doucet, who at that time was serving as Head of the Department of Administration and Technique of Teaching. As department head, Doucet had been director of all elementary and secondary student teachers. In the summer of 1920 Mr. Fletcher had first heard of Mr. Doucet, who was then teaching at Carencro High School. There Doucet was admired for the constructive work he did with students, especially those who spoke no English. Doucet taught English to these young people and guided them through high school, college, and careers. When Mr. Doucet was appointed principal of the Southwestern Training School in 1928, Mr. Fletcher's daughter, Ellen, was in the third grade. On Mr. Doucet's first day as principal, Ellen came home from school and reported, "We have a new principal. He is going to really run the school and we students all like him." Doucet and Fletcher had been friends and associates for many years when Fletcher was being considered for the presidency of Southwestern. Doucet frankly told Fletcher that he was opposed to his appointment; he felt someone with different training and background would be better suited for this administrative position. However, after Fletcher became president, Doucet congratulated him, pledged his cooperation, and proved a most loyal, trusted, and progressive colleague. At Southwestern as Dean of the College of Education, Mr. Doucet served most effectively until 1961 when, because of ill health, he was forced to retire. During his tenure the College of Education

⁷Fletcher, *Louisiana Education*, VI, No. 437, "Thomas Joseph Arceneaux; He Built An Excellent College of Education."

⁸*Ibid.*, I, No. 63, "Great Teachers Build Great Universities."

⁹*Ibid.*, No. 64, "Tribute to a Great Educational Diplomat."

was accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. In 1956, by Act 284, of the Louisiana Legislature, Southwestern was authorized to grant master's degrees in education. Later it began awarding Educational Specialist degrees. The Southwestern teacher education program, considered to be an across-the-University function, graduates teachers who serve all over the world.¹⁰

Another pressing staff consideration was that of the dean's position in the College of Engineering. Dean George Hughes was nearing retirement age. The College of Engineering, like the College of Agriculture, was established under the Frazar administration from several departments of shop work and drawing. This was in keeping with Frazar's program of progress for Stephens' "staid old Academic Institution."¹¹ At the time of his resignation Frazar was considering establishing a third college, a College of Psychology, which, if implemented, with Dr. Kenneth Hail as its dean, would have been the first such college in the country.¹² Dean Hughes of the College of Engineering was not convinced of the need for accreditation by the Engineering Committee for Professional Development. It was a difficult search for a replacement for Hughes as the salary offered by SLI was meager. Eventually the position was filled by highly qualified Dr. Frederick W. Zurburg, who was promoted from a job as Head of the Chemical Engineering Department. During his tenure as dean which lasted from 1943 until 1963, when his request to be named Director of Research was approved, Zurburg made an enviable record. A modern engineering building was constructed. An excellent faculty was built. And most important—the college was accredited.¹³

Fletcher's goal for Southwestern and the policies by which he planned to achieve his goal were clear cut. Southwestern's objective was to be the best school system in the nation. To achieve this it must have not only the best staff but also the best school plant and the best-trained students, who could successfully compete in any graduate school or any job. He initiated the scholastic progress minimum, requiring students to maintain at least certain ratios between quality points earned and semester hours of work scheduled. Also it was necessary for students to pass twelve semester hours of work per semester.¹⁴

In matters of policy he thought the philosophy of Robert E. Lee was worth following. After the Civil War when Lee assumed the leadership of a small college he said, "The thorough education of all classes of people is the most efficacious means, in my opinion, of promoting the prosperity of the South."¹⁵ There were also many enjoyable facets to this position for which Fletcher did not feel qualified but which he "sought and accepted in order to give my loved ones advantages which I wanted them to have. . . ." He had been impressed with the momentous task Stephens had accomplished in converting a school with no campus, whose entrance requirements amounted to the ability to read and write, into a respected four-year college. So he determined to emulate Stephens' policies and character traits which he considered to be:

1) Dedication to education and teaching;

¹⁰Ibid., VI, No. 295, "Maxime Daniel Doucet—Able and Respected Public School Man."

¹¹Ibid., VI, No. 439, "Dr. Frederick Zurburg; He Built a Standard Accredited College of Engineering at Southwestern."

¹²Statement by Dr. Kenneth B. Hail, personal interview, April 6, 1972.

¹³Fletcher, *Louisiana Education*, VI, No. 439.

¹⁴Lee L. Seale, comp., *Brief History of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1901-1958* (USL, 1960), p. 44

¹⁵Fletcher, *Louisiana Education*, VI, No. 9, "Jefferson College at Convent."

¹⁶Ibid., VI, No. 306, "What Does the Future Hold for Louisiana Public Education."

- 2) Foresight, or knowledge of what an institution of learning should be and what it should try to achieve;
- 3) High standards in his own life, not only for learning, by strict adherence to principles;
- 4) Courage to adhere to the path he had charted for his institution, and loyalty to those who worked with him regardless of the attacks made on him by selfish politicians and others who were more interested in their own selfish aims, rather than in the welfare of the students who attended his college.¹⁷

Once a liberal left-wing group referred to Fletcher as a "dictator college president." But he felt youth must be "made to take an education by responsible adults." And if being a dictator was responsible for clean, well-groomed, and appropriately dressed students while he was president, rather than dirty, long-haired, and slouchy looking youths that he saw elsewhere, then he was proud to be a dictator.¹⁸

Initially in his administration, Fletcher was not beset with problems of the physical plant at Southwestern. Frazar had initiated and promoted the biggest building program in the school's history. In 1940 there had been constructed or renovated and then dedicated Foster Hall, Mouton Hall, Stephens Memorial Library, the new Science Hall, the Elementary Training School, the Girls' Gym, Saucier Clinic and Infirmary, the Fine Arts Building, McNaspy Stadium, Parker Hall, Evangeline Hall, the President's Home, O. K. Allen Addition, and the Farm Dining Hall.¹⁹ However, Fletcher was not entirely pleased with the project. During the Frazar administration a law had been passed which allowed colleges to provide campus property for religious student centers. At that time the Catholic Church then owned a large lot on University (then College) Avenue, directly across from Southwestern. The Church sold the lot for a low price when Frazar offered an acre at the corner of St. Mary and McKinley for a Catholic Student Center. The building had not been constructed when Fletcher assumed office and many objected to it. However, in an effort to promote harmony, Fletcher allowed the plans to continue. He regretted the property loss. He also regretted the loss of a nice lot on the southwestern corner of the main campus, which Frazar transferred to Mr. Fred Nehrbass, a prominent Lafayette architect. Nehrbass later turned the property over to his brother-in-law, Francis Mouton, a local contractor.²⁰

From the beginning, on Mr. Fletcher's priority list was the development of an outstanding library for Southwestern. All his life Fletcher had been a voracious reader. During his youth he took advantage of his father's excellent library, and from it he obtained more knowledge than he did in school.²¹ His two or three childhood homes were never the finest in the community, but their libraries were. As an adult, when finances permitted, he built his own personal collection that emphasized Louisiana books. When he visited in a home for the first time, he always looked to see what books a family owned. He did not believe in "hit or miss" reading; to read for pleasure and education requires guidance.²² For this he sought excellent staff, more and more media, and

¹⁷Ibid., VI, No. 29, "Why Follow That Man?"

¹⁸Ibid., VI, No. 261, "What of the Youth of Today?"

¹⁹Documents and Artifacts, Letha E. Frazar, Box 12, fol. ff, SAMC.

²⁰Fletcher Papers, personal, Box 34, SAMC.

²¹Fletcher, *Louisiana Education*, VI, No. 210, "Kendall of the Picayune, America's First Correspondent."

²²Ibid., VI, No. 217, "Books are Meant to be Read, not Left on a Shelf."

periodic library surveys. He constantly pressed for funds until he could point with pride at Dupre Library. As a beginning, in the fall of 1942 he initiated library science as a requirement. However, it was not until 1943 that credit was allowed for this course.²⁵

Dr. Ben Kaplan, long time professor of sociology at Southwestern, said "... it is the things that men love and worship that will ultimately determine who they are, where they will go, how they will live and die."²⁶ Mr. Fletcher's "things" were books in particular and knowledge or education in general. He wanted them not only for himself and his children but also for Southwestern, Lafayette Parish, and the whole state of Louisiana. In 1946 a Citizen's Library Movement was organized in Lafayette. The Rotary Club, with Mr. Fletcher as its president, contributed twenty-five hundred dollars and the club's support for a demonstration library. On the first board the Police Jury appointed Miss Edith Dupré as chairman, Mr. Fletcher, Mrs. T. F. Wilbanks, and Fenner Wade Smith. Miss Lucille Arceneaux was named librarian.²⁷ Later Mr. Fletcher was also to serve on the Louisiana Library Board for eight years.²⁸

Fletcher had been president of Southwestern for less than a year when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941. During the spring semester of 1942 Southwestern went along rather as usual except for the occasional resignation of an older student to go into the service. However, during that fall a large part of the student body left, the men to serve with the armed forces, the women to marry them and to follow them to camp.²⁹ There was even the possibility that Mr. Fletcher would be leaving too; in 1943 he was considered for the presidency of Texas A. and M.³⁰

As the students dwindled steadily, Fletcher and Riehl attempted to secure some of the service units that were being placed in colleges. They were successful in obtaining two refresher courses: one for adults who wanted to go into war work, and another, a V-5 course, for naval flyers. However, both these courses were non-collegiate and did not benefit the faculty.³¹

Early in 1943 Fletcher learned that the Navy was planning a collegiate training course for its officers. Apparently, from a collegiate viewpoint, this was the best course available. Immediately Southwestern applied for one of these V-12 units. Dr. Charles Elliot, president of Purdue University, directed this program. Fletcher and Riehl went to Washington where they had an interview with Dr. Elliot.

Before they left New Orleans, they purchased fruit and food to eat on the train. Trains were overcrowded, and soldiers had first call on the dining cars. Fletcher and Riehl were not received very cordially by Dr. Elliot; they were not even invited to sit for the interview. Still standing, they heard Elliot coldly say that the number of units were limited and they would not be assigned one. He advised them to go home, tighten their belts, retain what faculty they could, and make the best of the bad situation. Later Fletcher told Riehl, "You know I love the United States. I have often thought that if I had lived during the time of the War Between the States that I would have been torn by the decision of whether to fight for my state in the Confederacy or join the Union forces. I

²⁵Lorne Knighten, "A History of the Library of Southwestern Louisiana Institute, 1900-1948," (Unpublished master's thesis), p. 75

²⁶Fletcher, *Louisiana Education*, IV, No. 232, "Dr. Benjamin Kaplan, Humanitarian."

²⁷Doris Broussard Bendley, "Edith Garland Dupré" (Ph.D. dissertation, Louisiana State University, 1971), p. 118

²⁸Fletcher, *Louisiana Education*, IV, No. 259, "Miss Essie M. Culver; State Librarian of Louisiana. Effective Educator and Crusader for Libraries."

²⁹Fletcher Papers, personal, Box 34, SAMC.

³⁰*Ibid.*, biography, Box 22, fols. a-z, SAMC.

³¹*Ibid.*, personal, Box 34, SAMC.

know now where my loyalty lies, and I wish Stonewall Jackson and Lee were in Virginia—I would go join them and fight those damn cold-blooded Yankees." Their immediate reaction was to go home, but by the following morning they had decided to keep fighting. Fletcher remembered that the senior Louisiana senator, John H. Overton, was related to Dr. Stephens and had served on an early Board of Trustees of Southwestern. They went to the old senator's office where they were received by Ruth Overton, his daughter as well as his secretary. To the charming lady they poured out their sad story. Finally she replied, "You know, Papa might be of assistance to you in that matter. Papa is the chairman of the Sub-Committee on Naval Affairs for the Senate Finance Committee." Indeed he did assist them. "Papa, put on your hat and go over to the Navy Department and tell the Secretary of the Navy that we must have a V-12 unit for our college at Southwestern." When the list of colleges entitled to a V-12 unit was printed, Southwestern's name was on the list.²⁰

In the summer of forty-three, Southwestern became very salty. The Navy arrived in civilian clothes, but as soon as their uniforms were received, the fashion became nautical. However, the men's favorite attire was that in which they marched to the swimming pool, which was over a mile and a half across town. This garb was either an undershirt with uniform pants or a bathing suit. There were 635 men in the unit and every afternoon about four-thirty o'clock some one hundred of them would march, singing service songs as they went down Johnston Street, across the railroad, and on to the pool. At first they created quite a stir, but after a while the townspeople hardly noticed as they trooped through town. At the first assembly in Martin Hall, Band Director Howard C. Voorhies tried to please everyone by playing the songs of all three branches represented: the Navy, Naval fliers, and the Marines. Pandemonium resulted; it took the priest's invocation to quiet them. On the campus military rule prevailed. Once Fletcher watched a Marine top sergeant reducing a disorderly man to the proper size, "You need not think you can't be locked up in the City of Lafayette, for you can! I call you stupid, that's all!" Sometimes Fletcher would encounter a serious V-12 marching along at a regular gait. He would say, "Hello, Sailor" and the man would look embarrassed, gaze past him, and remain silent. Then Fletcher would realize that the man was "in disgrace" and could not speak. Civilian superiors on the campus did not require military salutes and Fletcher was glad. Southwestern was friendly. He always wanted his students to approach him with any problem and without any ceremony be able to say, "Prof, what about so and so."²¹

Vital to the national war effort was the maintenance of troop morale. Perhaps it was in this domain that the President's office at Southwestern performed most magnificently—certainly in the most memorable way. On the day that Mr. Fletcher took office on January 1, 1941, he asked Mrs. Margaret Olivier, who began working for him that day, to get a list of those Southwesterners who had entered the National Guard that week. On that list there were twenty-six names. By the war's end, on this list there were over three thousand names of Southwesterners.²² To each name was mailed a periodic newsletter. These students wrote Mr. Fletcher's office and he in turn would report their news and their addresses as well as the happenings at Southwestern. Originals of the servicemen's letters and pictures were sent to their parents.²³

²⁰*Ibid.*

²¹*Ibid.*; Newsletter to the Southwestern men at war (August 16, 1943).

²²*Ibid.*; Newsletter 6.

²³Excerpts from Letters to Southwestern Servicemen During World War II—Education Topics, Fletcher, *op. cit.*, VI, no. 261

In a chatty, informal style, Mr. Fletcher wrote of many things: on January 15, 1943 the Sailorette Band and Red Jackets gave a Military Ball. In mid-January of 1944 when the "Ag" Department held its Mid-Winter Fair, the camellias were beautiful. The Industrial Arts building near the farm dining hall was used for training workers for defense plants. When the director of the Navy Pre-Flight telephoned that either he must close out the program or Southwestern must house one hundred men in the dormitories, the young ladies of Foster Hall made a hasty move to Harris Hall so the Navy could move in. To conform with the Navy's program, Southwestern went on a trimester basis. Churches had no vacant seats. Lt. (jg.) Johnnie Morriss, famous SLI track star, visited Southwestern. The Speech Department was transferred from the English Department to that of Fine Arts. Mr. Roy Murphy directed the Southwestern Radio and Publicity Department. At one-thirty o'clock each week day, there could be heard by radio the sweet voices of Martha de Gravelle or Evelyn Merrifield, "S.L.I.—Time is your time." Three hundred Marines occupied the white stuccoed farm dormitories. The College of Engineering was hopeful that the Navy V-5 program would lead to a Department of Aeronautics. Cypress Lake, made by damming and flooding Cypress Grove to provide a reservoir as a defense measure, was used to duck each cadet when he made his first solo flight. Little Negro boys flocked around the Naval cadets, hoping to make a few nickels shining shoes. The building of the Catholic Chapel induced the Episcopalians to rent the home where the SLI Nursery School was once conducted, the Baptists to purchase the former Cunningham home, the Methodists to occupy the old Rendezvous Restaurant, and the Presbyterians to build a small student house on its property. Regular outside band concerts attracted everyone. Joe Guidry, home from New Guinea, burned his rationed supply of gasoline and, in French, appealed to the rural people to buy War Bonds. When the deadline was reached, Lafayette Parish, with Fletcher as chairman, exceeded its goal. To boost the morale of service men on campus, Fletcher appealed to the State Board of Education to rescind its action banning intercollegiate athletics. In Houston SLI's football team beat Southwestern of Texas to the score of 27 to 6. In the country could be seen German and Italian prisoners of war working in the fields. At Thanksgiving time Fletcher received an anonymous sign, "We want a holiday." He inscribed on it, "See Secretary Knox, please." The Sun Bowl at El Paso asked Southwestern to play the University of New Mexico on New Year's Day. A formation of Navy fighter planes flew over Southwestern. One left formation and saluted the campus. It was Bob Jackson paying respects to his Alma Mater. Retiring Miss Edith Dupré opened her "Sans Souci" bookstore. It sold out the first day. In the Oil Bowl Game in Houston, Southwestern beat Arkansas by a 24 to 7 score. On D-Day 1945 at 3:50 a.m., although it was still dark, the Lafayette streets were full of people rushing to church to pray. In the paper there was an account of Lt. Charles Burgess, shooting down an enemy plane and then chivalrously maneuvering his plane so the enemy pilot could bail out in safety. Rail travel was terrible; Fletcher stayed home. Southwestern bought the fifteen-acre track of land near the stadium and two hundred acres of land adjoining the Whittington Farm. A faculty committee was formed to counsel returning veterans. The Student Loan Fund, long operating unofficially, was legalized by the State Board of Education. At the "picture show" the film of General MacArthur's return to the Philippines prompted the first applause in months. Southwestern's symphony orchestra performed in New Orleans. The State Board restored athletic scholarships. The students assembled to pay official tribute to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt when he died. The war was over. The legislature planned post-war education and highways. President Fletcher received a certificate from Secretary of Navy James

V. Forrestal commending Southwestern's part in the V-12 program. A bronze plaque dedicated to SLI's war dead was erected near Our Lady of Wisdom Chapel.²⁴

Another war-related activity concerned the French. Although Fletcher was Anglo-Saxon, he was to develop a sense of kinship with the Louisiana people of French extraction. He laughed with them (and they laugh often and easily)—not at them. He once told a reporter about an old Frenchman of the Country. The old man, when he heard of the sad plight of people of France, after the surrender in 1940, said feelingly, "They shouldn't ever have left Louisiana in the first place."²⁵ One group of French on a "flat-top", or aircraft carrier, did escape the Germans and came "home" to Louisiana where they were given sanctuary in the port of New Orleans for the rest of the war. The crew were to be frequent guests in the French homes of Lafayette and St. Martinville through the efforts of Tom Arceneaux, Mr. Fletcher, and Monsieur Edouard Perot. Shortly after Fletcher moved into the president's office in Mouton Hall, Perot customarily stopped by Mr. Fletcher's office on the way to work in the French Department on the second floor. He lived nearby with his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Hernandez, and soon became fast friends not only with Fletcher but with his small son, Joel III, who caught the old man's fervor for a Free France. The first Bastille Day after France's liberation, Perot, Fletcher, and Arceneaux were invited to be special guests of the Free French representatives in New Orleans. Joel, then ten, upon Perot's insistence, joined them. On July 14, 1945, at four a.m. the four drove to New Orleans for an eight o'clock mass at St. Louis Cathedral. They were given seats of honor in the front of the church. After the long service they drove out on St. Charles Avenue to the home and headquarters of their host, André Latargue, who had headed the French Resistance Program in Louisiana during the war. There, as champagne flowed, the host's two young daughters, some five or six years older than Joel, entertained him royally. Later they drove to Canal Street where the crew of the "flat-top" were standing at attention. Led by a small band they all marched down Canal singing the Marseillaise at the top of their champagne-activated voices. The parade ended at the old La Louisiana Restaurant where nearly every guest made a speech or toast. Suddenly Joel, prompted by Dr. Arceneaux, jumped up on the table and with wine glass in hand proposed a toast "Vive La Belle France Libre." The group stood and cheered the happy little boy.²⁶

Shortly after the Bastille Day event Fletcher read a news item which said that in drawing up the peace treaty, the United States, England, and Germany delegates would sit at the main table. At a nearby but separate table would be delegates from France and Italy, who had joined the Allies near the end of the war. Fletcher's sense of fair play was enraged. He had experienced first hand the patriotic fervor of Perot and the De Gaulle Free French. He took time from his demanding job to write a long letter to the chairman of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate in which he demanded that the Free French be seated at the peace table. Copies of the letter were sent to members of that committee, to the city newspapers in Louisiana, and to major papers across the country. Often his letter was printed, sometimes with favorable comments. Shortly afterwards the Foreign Relations Committee placed the Free French at the Peace Table as equals.²⁷

²⁴Fletcher Papers, personal, Box 34, Excerpts from War Newsletters.

²⁵John Temple Graves, "This Morning," *Birmingham Herald*, October 4, 1943, p. 1.

²⁶Fletcher, op. cit. VI, No. 337, "Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor."

²⁷*Ibid.*

One day after the peace treaty was signed, Fletcher found on his desk a bronze medal entitled "Français Reconnaisance". An accompanying letter said the medal had been given in appreciation of Fletcher's interest in France. A few days later he received a letter from the French Consul General in New Orleans stating that the Republic of France wanted to confer on him the Medal of the Legion of Honor of France. The consul came to Lafayette and in Burke Hall in a public ceremony placed the beautiful medal around his neck. Fletcher, the Consul General said, had stood up for Free France when it sorely needed a friend. Fletcher said he was merely the spokesman for Monsieur Perot, Dr. Arceneaux, and Joel III. There was another benefit from the consul. The following morning the French dignitary, who was the Fletcher's overnight guest, drove with them to see the two and one half acres which they had purchased for a future home. Mrs. Fletcher asked their guest to give the place an appropriate French name. When he saw the grove of trees, he said, "This is Le Bocage Vert." And Bocage Vert it has been since.⁴⁰

Mr. Fletcher was as loyal to the French of Louisiana as he was to the Free French. In all his writings there was a constant theme of admiration for the gentle, friendly French. He loved hearing French spoken on campus and fought for the preservation and development of the language. He was proud of the gracious courtesy and genuine friendliness radiating from his campus because of the French influence. In October of 1947 he was to spend an entire night writing a description of the Evangeline country and its people. The occasion of the tribute was a meeting of the Cambridge Historical Society. Tom Arceneaux, who was to be a speaker, asked Mr. Fletcher to substitute for him because of a death in his family. Fletcher's address was a work of love and appreciation to the Acadian people whose long association with Fletcher had given him a peculiar insight into their culture.⁴¹ Mr. Fletcher told FBI investigators, who during the war were looking into the loyalty of men, that an Acadian name indicated no further need for investigation. Although the Acadians spoke French, there was no divided allegiance.⁴²

The fall of 1945 marked the V-12 units departure for civilian life and the beginning of a bolsterous post-war era. The dormitories occupied by the V-12 students were now filled with married veterans and their wives awaiting the construction of apartments for their use. The G. I. Bill made it possible for veterans to attend college and they did so in unprecedented numbers.⁴³ In 1946, 108 housing units were built for these veterans. This was the first construction since the vast Frazar building program that had resulted in the dedication of fourteen buildings in 1940. Also provided at this time were "temporary" classrooms and laboratory buildings to relieve overcrowded facilities.⁴⁴

The war had taught a bitter lesson—the error of prejudice and ignorance of other people's cultures and languages. During the war men were taught to kill and destroy; now they were being taught, in self-defense, to build better human understanding through student exchange, student travel, and in depth studies of foreign languages, politics, and cultures. This was the era of Fulbright scholarships whose monies came primarily from the sale of surplus war property to foreign countries. In 1947 a federation of one hundred and fifty organizations and educational

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Ibid., I, No. 1A, "Teacher of Acadian Youth."

⁴²Ibid., No. 6A, "The Acadians Are Loyal Citizens of the United States."

⁴³Fletcher Papers, personal, Box 34.

⁴⁴Florent Hardy, Jr., "A Brief History of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1900-1960" (M.A. thesis, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1969), 123.

institutions was formed to assist in the planning and execution of the educational exchange program. As Mr. Fletcher grew older, he became convinced that international understanding through international cooperation for education of students and teachers was the world's best hope for peace.⁴³ Perhaps it was his strong feelings about international relations that was to inspire his son Joel to make this field his business. And upon retirement Mr. Fletcher was to be employed in related work.

As president of a state college, Mr. Fletcher was constantly involved in politics, whether he liked it or not. Mostly, he didn't like it. He had a dislike, almost contempt, for the unscrupulous, unjust, corrupt, ruthless, arrogant, meddling politician. Yet, in his business, he could hardly disregard these demagogues or charlatans. The first seven years in office were anti-Long years. The war years were necessarily lean, difficult ones. But when the war was over, needless stress was placed on Southwestern's administration because the state government would not allocate adequate funds for ordinary expenses like staff, construction, or maintenance. In 1948 when the Longs regained power, it was rumored that all college presidents appointed during their exile would be removed from office. At that time Claybrook Cottingham was at Ruston, Joseph Gibson was at Natchitoches, and Mr. Fletcher was at Lafayette. First the Long party revamped the State Board. They replaced Bronier Thibaut with Mayor Leon Gary of Houma, Morgan Walker with Albert Fredericks of Natchitoches, Dr. Rufus Harris with Paul Habans, Frank Godchaux with Judge Isom Guillory, John Graham with Raymond Heard, and Jacob Morrison with Joseph Davies. Immediately prior to the first meeting Edward Stagg told Fletcher, "Prof, I hate to tell you this, but Bill Dodd has just told me that you are to go along with Cottingham and Gibson." Minutes later Fletcher received a telephone call from Marvin Thames, the newly-appointed Director of the Employment Security Division. Thames, a Grant Parish boy, had been a student and friend of Fletcher. Thames said, "Mr. Fletcher, Governor Long has just appointed you a member of the Advisory Committee of my department, and I want you to know I am anxious for you to serve with us."

Fletcher reasoned that Long would hardly offer such an important appointment to one that he considered an enemy. He answered that he would be glad to serve on the committee and went to the Board meeting determined to keep his mouth shut and to spend as much time on the farm as possible as he had in other trying times.⁴⁴

There were other reassurances as the Long regime began. Soon after his 1948 election, Earl Long appointed Mrs. Fletcher's brother-in-law, Sebe Digby, as Conservation Commissioner. Albert Fredericks, a long time personal friend of both Joel and Guy Fletcher, was appointed as Executive Secretary. Early one morning while Fletcher was making coffee, Fredericks called, "Joel," he said, "I was over at the mansion last night and Earl said, 'I see the papers are still saying I am going to move old Joel Fletcher. You call him in the morning and tell him as long as I am Governor of the State, he can be President of Southwestern.'" During his term of office, Governor Long was never to make a single request of Fletcher. Monies were forthcoming for school needs. It was laughingly said that the Longs needed no studies or surveys to tell them what education needed. They knew the needs; they provided for them.⁴⁵

Albert Fredericks, however, made requests that were to have far-reaching effects. Frederick's only child, Emily, was a senior in music at LSU. Professor David S. Byrnside, approached

⁴³Fletcher, op. cit., III, No. 195, "Many Opportunities Offered Today for Study and Travel Abroad for Students and Teachers in Both High School and College"

⁴⁴Fletcher Papers, personal, Box 34.

⁴⁵Ibid.

Fletcher: "Joel, Fredericks would like to have Emily teach here. She is getting her second degree in music this year, she is an accomplished musician, and every other college president in the state has offered her a job. However, Fredericks would rather have her here with you than anywhere else, and I think it would be a good idea to employ her and I know she would make an excellent teacher." Willis Ducrest, Head of the Music Department, interviewed Emily, found her qualified, and her name was sent to the Board for approval. She began teaching in September. About two weeks later Frank Godchaux, who had been largely responsible for Fletcher's appointment as president and who had been his constant friend and champion through the eight years he had served, telephoned Mr. Fletcher. In an icy voice, he said, "I understand you have appointed that no-good Fredericks' daughter to your faculty. You go right back, tell her to pack her trunk and get home." When Fletcher told Godchaux he could not do this, Godchaux threatened revenge. It came—surely and quickly. When the Board met in October, it was an executive meeting and Fletcher was requested to be present. Chairman Eleanor H. Meade of the Education Committee objected to Fletcher's appointment of Emily Fredericks and stated that the Board should refuse approval. Fletcher defended the appointment and refused to withdraw the name. Rufus Harris upheld Fletcher, and the Board, in the end, approved the recommendation. For the remaining two meetings of the anti-Long Board, Fletcher was the "whipping boy." Two out of the three recommendations that he made at these meetings were denied. First, the Board tabled indefinitely his recommendation for purchasing 11.8 acres of land south of the campus on the Abbeville Highway. There was on hand sufficient funds to buy the property. Today on this land, which could have been bought for \$28,000, is Stop and Shop, Dauterive's Furniture Store, and a street of houses worth several million dollars. Secondly, they refused to allow St. Mary's Street through the campus to be paved. The third recommendation for a \$20,000 budget to be used for leaves for advanced study by faculty members was passed only because Colonel George Madison came to Fletcher's defense. The last meeting of the old Board, held at the Tulane library, was one primarily of farewell speeches and bouquets. That night there was a dinner at the Harrises and Fletcher found his place card in an alcove while Mrs. Fletcher's was at the head table with Godchaux, Walker, Graham, and Harris. Fletcher sat fuming and listened idly while a board member at his table, who was a mortician, gave an account of a terrible car accident in Baton Rouge that had made him late for the dinner. Two LS U students had been killed in the accident. A third passenger in the car, Emily Fredericks, had barely escaped from the death car and might not survive. Her death would have been a dramatic end to a real-life drama but happily she was able to return to her work at Southwestern where her teaching was highly regarded.⁴⁶

Another time Fredericks caused Fletcher embarrassment by asking Fletcher to employ Blanche (Mrs. Earl) Long's sister. Fletcher employed her, not in a dead-head job, but first in the library and later in the Student Employment Office. She worked hard and her check was not a vast supplement to her alimony check from Joe Simon.⁴⁷

There was something else in the political pie that influenced Fletcher's stay at Southwestern during the Long regime. He had the support of Lucille Long, the youngest sister of Huey and Earl. Fletcher had first met Lucille in Jackson Parish where she taught at Beech Springs and he at Ansley. He met her when she came to Ansley to visit her sister Lottie, Mrs. Bob Davis, whose husband was one of the sawmill owners. Lucille married Stewart Hunt, whose family was one of

⁴⁶Ibid

⁴⁷Ibid.

the owners of Hodge-Hunt Lumber Company in Ruston which was later incorporated with the Brown Paper Company at Hodge. Lucille and Stewart built a house across from the Fletcher family home on Vienna Street in Ruston. Their two children were taught in the Presbyterian Sunday School by Fletcher's sisters. Lucille, a witty, shrewd woman, enjoyed discussing political matters with Fletcher's mother. During the mother's last years, Lucille became a good friend, taking time to visit for hours. His mother said fondly of her, "Lucille is a good-hearted person. She will give the shirt off her back to a friend—of course, the next day she will tell people she gave you five shirts, not one." When Mrs. Fletcher died, it was Lucille who came in and took over all the unpleasant duties. Earl was devoted to his little sister, who was said to contribute heavily to his campaign. Fletcher felt it was Lucille's influence that protected his job at Southwestern. Fletcher needed all the help he could get; when Frazar became lieutenant-governor and Rex McCullough became senator in 1950, Raymond Heard, the Ruston Board member told Fletcher that he had some powerful enemies in Lafayette.⁴⁴ But Fletcher knew that, although one's friends could be a source of strength, friends can, at times, be more dangerous than enemies.⁴⁵

The years between 1948 and 1952 were probably the most tranquil of Fletcher's administration. By May of 1949 the Southwestern Creamery on Whittington Farm was proudly opened. Serving as a laboratory for students of dairy science, it was equipped to produce ice cream, cheddar cheese, and pasteurized homogenized milk.⁴⁶ Southwest Louisiana, thanks to the pioneering of forces like Southwestern, could proudly serve on its tables dairy products second to none. In 1949 the Blackham Coliseum on Johnston Street was ready for the enjoyment of spectators at such events as the South Louisiana Mid-Winter Fair, stock and flower shows, pageants, and athletic events.⁴⁷ In 1950 there were built three new women's dormitories, Huger, Lady Baker, and Beverly Randolph.⁴⁸ In 1953 Montgomery Hall, a million dollar steel and masonry building was dedicated for the Chemistry Department.⁴⁹

In 1951 the College of Nursing was set up with Miss Clare M. J. Wangen as dean. Fletcher had become aware of the need for a nursing school through the efforts of Sister Florence Means of Charity Hospital. She was keenly aware of the desire for a liberal education that was shared by her staff of nurses, products of three-year vocational schools. There was no school of nursing on a college level in the area and Dean Griffin discouraged them, "Southwestern has no interest in nursing as a vocation." His statement connoted vocation as differing from a profession. Sister Florence encouraged the nurses to enroll at Southwestern and to work for a degree in fields other than nursing. Eventually a fully accredited four-year nursing school was to evolve.⁵⁰ The College of Commerce, the youngest of the colleges, was formed in 1952 from the Departments of Economics and Business Administration with Dr. Herbert A. Hamilton as Dean.⁵¹ So, by 1953,

⁴⁴*Ibid.*

⁴⁵Fletcher, op. cit., I, No. 43, "Thomas H. Harris—Great Man of Education."

⁴⁶Clipping, U.S.L. Archives, Col. 1, Box 43, fol. 6, *Kaplan Times*, May 28, 1949.

⁴⁷Clipping, *Lafayette Daily Advertiser*, January 17, 1949, p. 1.

⁴⁸U.S.L. News Bureau, Fletcher file.

⁴⁹*Southwestern Alumni News*, June 1953, pp. 1-6.

⁵⁰*Ibid.*

⁵¹*Ibid.*

Southwestern, the largest state college under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Board of Education, was enrolling some 2,700 students in its six colleges.⁵⁴

In 1952 in Louisiana it was election time again; that meant a reshuffling of the political structure. New governors could mean new college presidents. Whatever the reason, in the summer of 1952 Mr. Fletcher considered leaving Southwestern. He was interested in a position with a bank or a small private school. He mentioned this in a letter to President Rufus Harris of Tulane, saying that he was afraid for his health if he remained in the public school system.⁵⁵

Always Mr. Fletcher aspired to have his students so trained that they could successfully compete with any colleagues anywhere. But they must have the opportunity to do so. Too often Louisiana graduates were passed over for students from more prestigious schools. In this interest he asked his able secretary, Mrs. Bernice Tobin, who was his secretary in 1953, to attend the Southwest Placement Association meeting in Biloxi. When she returned, full of information and enthusiasm, he instructed her, "Start such a facility for Southwestern." Twenty years later, Mrs. Tobin was still operating the Placement Bureau. She worked hard to assist graduating seniors, alumni, and undergraduates who need part-time work to get the best deal possible in the job market.⁵⁶

Job placement in the Placement Bureau must not be confused with the Student Aid program for needy students. The poor are always with us—even in the post-war prosperity. Fletcher continued his struggle on their behalf. His idea of aid was to get students to help themselves; he was impatient with "give away" programs. He cultivated scholarships and other sources of funds for his proteges as carefully as he did camellias. And they grew. One of the best known is the Southwestern Student Loan Fund that demands repayments only after a student has been graduated for two years. Industry, civic clubs, fraternal groups set up scholarships; some of the patrons include the Lafayette Guaranty Bank, L'Avenir Women's Club, Sigma Phi Alpha and the H. J. Luther Starks.⁵⁷ Dear to the heart of Mr. Fletcher was the Joel L. Fletcher Scholarship Fund. The initial funds for it came from fifty-cent admissions charged to see the faculty-student basketball game. There had been plans to use this money for a portrait of Mr. Fletcher, but he objected and the money began a scholarship fund. However, officials of the basketball game provided a Fletcher trophy in lieu of the portrait. The trophy was one of Fletcher's work shoes which had been bronzed. His wearing high-topped, laced shoes to his office had long been a source of amusement on the campus.⁵⁸

In 1952 Robert Kennon replaced Long as governor. Soon after his inauguration, he walked out of the National Democratic Convention and became a strong supporter of Dwight Eisenhower. Under the Eisenhower administration there were appointed as Federal judges two young lawyers who were Kennon's chief aides, Ben C. Dawkins and Edwin F. Hunter. Both these men had been "state righters" and segregationists. Within months, however, these men considered a suit brought by Negroes for entrance to Southwestern and ruled that they must be admitted.⁵⁹

⁵⁴Fletcher Papers, Louisiana History, Box 3, fol. F, "The League Looks at Lafayette," League of Women Voters, Lafayette, Louisiana, November 1953.

⁵⁵Ibid., Box 23, Fol. p. Letter from Joel L. Fletcher to Dr. Rufus C. Harris, June 20, 1952.

⁵⁶Statement by Mrs. Bernice Tobin, personal interview, April 15, 1972.

⁵⁷Fletcher Papers, personal, Box 34.

⁵⁸Statement by Mrs. Joel L. Fletcher, personal interview, November 19, 1972.

⁵⁹Fletcher papers, personal, Box 34.

On September 1, 1953, there walked into the office of Registrar Stewart Bonnet, four young blacks, Clara Dell Constantine, Martha Jane Conway, Shirley Taylor, and Charles Vincent Singleton, who applied for admission. Bonnet refused their applications on the grounds that Section 1 of the establishing Act 162 specified that Southwestern was "for the education of the white children of the state of Louisiana." On January 5, 1954, the Negroes filed suit for admission, stating that they were being denied their constitutional rights because of their color and race.⁴² Characteristically Fletcher decided to "keep his mouth shut." His friends followed suit. Probably Rosemary Dauterive, director of campus publicity, could have done some lucrative writing under her by-line; she wrote not a word. *Life Magazine* called Calvin Blue, at two-thirty o'clock one morning, asking for publicity pictures. Although Blue was offered fifty dollars for his services, a nice sum at that time, he demurred.⁴³ The *Daily Advertiser* briefly reported developments. On July 18 the Shreveport Federal Court ruled that Southwestern could not refuse admission to any Negro. On July 22, John Harold Taylor of Arnaudville became the first black to register at Southwestern.⁴⁴ The State Board of Education, in almost complete accord, refused to appeal the case. Everything indicated that the story that was told Fletcher in Ruston by a Kennon connection was true. This person said, "Its not because of you, Joel, that Southwestern was integrated. The Governor just had to make some move in that direction on account of President Eisenhower—and he knew the damn Cajuns wouldn't mind." Fletcher resented that at about the same time the college at Natchitoches had a similar suit filed against it. But Judge Dawkins, a Shreveport man, told Natchitoches leaders that he would see that it was not tried for ten years. Eight years later it was still untried. Although this singular treatment was a cross to bear, Fletcher resolved that neither Robert Kennon nor anyone else would destroy Southwestern. If he vented his anger, men of less good will, might be inspired to violence. Hence, through the cooperation of businessmen, faculty, and students, Southwestern was so quietly integrated that years later many townspeople expressed surprise that it was indeed an integrated school.⁴⁵

By the close of Kennon's administration Earl Long was again in complete control of the Long machine and won in the first primary for governor with over fifty-three per cent of the votes. Serving with him was Lether Frazar as lieutenant governor. Rex McCullough was Lafayette's senator. The first session of the legislature was smooth. Funds were increased for Southwestern; relative peace prevailed in Louisiana politics. Senator McCullough introduced a bill giving to Southwestern the ability to grant the master's degree in education. The bill passed.⁴⁶ In the next few years many other fields were allowed to follow suit—engineering, bacteriology, biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and general science in 1957; French and music in 1961; English, geography, history, home economics, and Spanish in 1963; computer science in 1964; and political science and statistics in 1966.⁴⁷ But apparently Fletcher had misgivings about Southwestern's and/or other state school's graduate programs. He was to say, "It is more honorable to offer high quality undergraduate work in whatever fields they are qualified than to offer shoddy degrees for which there is inadequate faculty and facilities. . . . The happiest hour of

⁴²*Daily Advertiser*, January 5, 1954, p. 1, "Four Negroes Sook Entrance to SLU."

⁴³Statement by Mrs. Calvin Blue, personal interview, February 14, 1973.

⁴⁴*Daily Advertiser*, July 22, 1954, p. 1, "Negro Registers at SLU to Study Engineering."

⁴⁵Fletcher papers, personal, Box 34.

⁴⁶*Ibid.*

⁴⁷*University of Southwestern Louisiana Undergraduate-Graduate Catalog, 1971-1972*, p. 34.

my life came when due to the high academic standards that college [U.S.L.] had met through sixty years of service, it was invited to become a member of the Southern College Conference." This honorary association is exclusive in that membership is by invitation only and is very selective. Only those Southern universities with high standards, like Johns Hopkins and Southern Methodist University, are considered.⁶⁶

During these years of growth and prosperity Mr. Fletcher was not confined to his "ivory tower" at Southwestern. He was involved in many matters of state and nation. Probably it was a simple matter of liking people. He took delight in his ability to remember names, and keeping his word was a matter of honor. Once when visiting in Abbeville he patted a bright-eyed, pre-schooler on the head and asked, "And what do you want to do when you grow up, Miss Helen?" Seriously she answered, "Your secretary." When the young lady was attending Southwestern, he employed her one summer as his private secretary.⁶⁷ His mind, like a computer, seemed capable of storing and retrieving endless trivia about individuals, much of which later went into volumes of writings. He was much in demand as a speaker. His speeches, directly or indirectly, concerned selling one product, the idea of education. Once he lamented that "a university president must spend so much time thinking and talking about money that he must leave to merchants, lawyers, and bankers the privilege of thinking and talking about education."⁶⁸

One non-school assignment Fletcher particularly enjoyed. In 1952, at fifty-five, he was appointed to the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of the Atlanta Branch of New Orleans for a six year period. Texas Congressman Wright Patman once called the Federal Reserve Bank the most powerful organization in America. About once a year Fletcher had to go to Atlanta for a meeting. Usually he would attend the New Orleans meeting and then take the overnight train to the Atlanta station from which he could walk to the bank. He enjoyed his companions on these train trips. Usually he was accompanied by Vice President Morgan Shaw, the executive directing the New Orleans Bank. Sometimes they would be accompanied by board member Richard W. Freeman of New Orleans. Freeman would entertain them with tales of how he acquired his wealth. Freeman and Walter Bellingrath, owner of Bellingrath Gardens in Mobile, both railroad station agents, studied successful business practices. They invested in a franchise to sell a new drink, Coca Cola—Bellingrath in Alabama, he in Louisiana. Fletcher and his colleagues would return to New Orleans on the Delta Airline. Freeman was a major stockholder in Delta, his son was vice president; Mr. Fletcher had known the founder of the company, C. E. Woolman. Woolman, Fletcher's superior, had taken him to Farmerville in 1919 to start his new job.⁶⁹

As a tribute to his faculty and in appreciation to benefactors of Fletcher and Southwestern, Fletcher began a series of honor professorships. These honor professors are appointed by the State Board of Education upon recommendation of the University's president. The first, in 1955, was the Edwin Lewis Stephens Professorship in Science in honor of Southwestern's first president. The same year the Edith Garland Dupré Professorship was established. Later there

⁶⁶Fletcher, op. cit., VI, No. 300, "A Strong State University Should Be First Consideration in Building an Excellent Educational System for Louisiana."

⁶⁷Statement by Helen Hebert Pearson, personal interview, December 14, 1972.

⁶⁸News Bureau, Fletcher File, Speech, November 1960, in Thibodaux, Louisiana, "The Importance of First Quality Higher Education in the Economic Development of Louisiana."

⁶⁹Fletcher, op. cit., VI, No. 274, "Atlanta, Georgia, Southern Education and Trade Center."

were the Jefferson Caffery Professorship in Political Science in 1964 and the Frank A. Godchaux, Sr. Professorship in Sociology in 1965.⁷²

In 1955 another dream of Fletcher, weary of Southwestern's financial dependance on state funds, was to culminate in the formation of the U. S. L. Foundation. The Foundation supplements or provides funds for academic or related activities for which there are no state funds. The Foundation's first donation was a \$5,000 check from Senator and Mrs. Eloi M. Girard.⁷³ It was the Girard family that had made Southwestern a reality in 1900 when Mr. Crow Girard donated the twenty-five acre plot for the original campus.⁷⁴ Mrs. Eloi M. Girard, the former Ruth Stodghill, had served on the Southwestern music staff for many years. The Foundation receives scholarships, gifts, donations, bequests of money, and real and personal property, all income-tax deductible to the donor. The most tangible, though not the most extensive, work of the Foundation is the Art Center for Southwestern, a many-columned Southern plantation mansion designed by Hays Town and contracted by Horace Rickey.⁷⁵ Bricks from Southwestern's old Martin Hall were used for the Museum. Fletcher said, "Those of us who love Southwestern have long wished for Old Martin to live on—and a way has been found for it to do so."⁷⁶ One room in the Art Center has been named the Joel L. Fletcher Room in memory of his great effort in its behalf.⁷⁷

Southwestern's expansion between 1955 and 1960 made for a grand facade in Lafayette that would have been unbelievable to George W. Cable, who in his *Bon Adventure*, written for "Yankee readers," referred to his visit to Lafayette as the "sorry little village of Vermilionville." In 1955 Baton Rouge approved the construction of a new student center, two boys' dormitories, and an engineering building. Southwestern and Lafayette were becoming metropolitan. Also in 1955 a 31.3 acre field laboratory for the study of Louisiana wild life studies was begun at the junction of Fearman Bayou and Vermilion Bay for the purpose of studying marine life and wildlife such as deer, birds, muskrat, and nutria.⁷⁸ The laboratory, accessible only by boat, was another step toward Louisiana conservation, a subject dear to the heart of Fletcher. All his adult life he bristled with hate against outlanders who raped Louisiana's natural resources. On his first trip to Lafayette in 1920 he recalled the dead, cut-over timberlands with their black stumps, rotting tree tops, and eroding ravines left by big land companies.⁷⁹ Fletcher continued to upgrade his faculty, coveting the professors of rich institutions. Perhaps the most noteworthy acquisition during this period was Dr. Vernon Lane Wharton, who Fletcher said "did more to lift the academic standards of Southwestern as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts [during his eight years' tenure] than any other who ever taught there."⁸⁰ It is the writer's opinion that had not cancer taken Wharton's life, he would have succeeded Fletcher as president. Also during this period Fletcher assigned to D. S. "Shine" Young the responsibility of doing something about Southwestern's athletics. In

⁷²News Bureau, Fletcher File.

⁷³Southwestern Alumni News, 17 (October, 1955), "First Donation to Southwestern," 17.

⁷⁴Lafayette's Clerk of Court Office, Entry 24,861.

⁷⁵Daily Advertiser, January 28, 1973, p. 14, "Open House Scheduled at Art Center Today."

⁷⁶Joel L. Fletcher's remarks at a press conference, June 24, 1964, News Bureau, Fletcher File.

⁷⁷Daily Advertiser, January 28, 1973.

⁷⁸U.S.L. Archives, U.S.L. Press Releases, 1953-1965, Box 1, Col. L-N, fols. A-F, Clipping, *Crowley Daily Signal*, February 9, 1956, "Laboratory to Be Erected for Wildlife Studies."

⁷⁹Fletcher, op. cit., VI, No. 264, "John H. Cockerham, Soil Conservationist."

⁸⁰Ibid., VI, No. 438, "Dr. Vernon Lane Wharton: He Held High Academic Standards."

Athletics Fletcher had never actively participated personally or as an enthusiastic fan. However, he had been a member of the College Athletic Committee for ten years, and President Stephens had appointed him to revitalize athletics.⁶¹ He resented the huge sums necessary to provide proficient teams to "amuse tired business men on Saturday evenings" Worse, twenty-eight per cent of Louisiana's building funds is used for athletics—structures like coliseums, stadiums, and basketball courts.⁶² The particular value of athletics, as he saw it, was to develop leadership. Young's methods of altering Southwestern's athletics were to anger many people. He "cleaned house," hired new staff, formed the Century Club, and generally promoted the cause of athletics. His efforts were ultimately to produce Southwestern athletes of national fame.⁶³

On June 25, 1960, by Act 123 of the Louisiana Legislature, Southwestern Louisiana Institute officially became the University of Southwestern Louisiana.⁶⁴ Actually it had been a university for some time according to the dictionary meaning. *Webster's Dictionary* denotes a university as being an institution with both undergraduate and graduate schools. "University" connotes excellence⁶⁵—and it bothered Fletcher that his school might be substituting quantity for quality. "It is not possible," he said, "to change a small crossroads college into a university by simply giving it that name in its title." His was a tenacity—a stubbornness—a refusal to relax in self-assurance of "having arrived."

He insisted:

the graduate schools must offer quality education which will not only attract Louisiana's superior students but keep them in the State. . . . A Ph.D., like the term university, does not necessarily connote quality or advanced education. . . . To have value the institution offering Ph.D. degrees must have adequate faculty, library, laboratories, and the respect of other institutions of higher learning. The ideal, but currently impossible, situation would be the placing of the strongest of the state schools, including L. S. U., under a university system whose Board of Trustees were of the ablest state leaders. The best faculties could be secured. Duplication of functions should be changed so specialization could be had by placing colleges in the location best suited to that instruction. School board members must be concerned with the best education for all Louisiana students, rather than just those from pet areas.⁶⁶

According to Fletcher, in 1960, 21.3% of all persons over twenty-five in Louisiana had completed less than five years of school as compared with 8.2% in the nation as a whole.⁶⁷ However, a giant step forward had been made since Southwestern's beginning when almost no public high schools existed in the area. Calling Southwestern an "Institute" had been quite deliberately done by Robert Martin, who introduced the originating act. "Institute" connoted technology and voters wanted quick, positive training to teach their boys and girls how to make a living so as to escape

⁶¹Kenneth Weber, "Joel Lafayette Fletcher" (report for Education 501, U.S.L., 1967), p. 8.

⁶²Fletcher, op. cit., VI, No. 336, "We Take Our Leave of Paris

⁶³Statement by D. S. "Shine" Young, telephone interview, September 26, 1972.

⁶⁴Act No. 123, Copy from Wade O. Martin, Jr., Secretary of State.

⁶⁵Amos E. Simpson, "A College Comes of Age," *Southwest, The Magazine of Louisiana Living*, 2 (1960): 2-3.

⁶⁶Fletcher, op. cit., VI, No. 299, "The Coordinating Commission for Louisiana Higher Education."

⁶⁷News Bureau, Fletcher File. Remarks from speech, Baton Rouge, October 28, 1963, Meeting of Gamma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture, "Human Resources: The Key to Louisiana's Progress."

grinding poverty. The industrial age was banishing the Bourbon concept that education was for the elite and dangerous for the masses. If the masses were educated, there would be no one to cut wood, plow the fields, and haul the water.⁴⁸

During the Fletcher administration the president's mansion was constantly used for University and town affairs varying from very formal affairs to coffee breaks. Guests included the famous and the unknown. In 1962 the Fletchers met for the first time at a university affair Jefferson Caffery, "Mr. Diplomat of the United States foreign service." Joel III, who was then teaching at U. S. L., met the Cafferys through Ben Thibodeaux, who had been on Caffery's staff in Paris and attached to the embassy in Tokyo. When Joel had served with the Seventh Fleet in Tokyo, Thibodeaux had been very nice to him. The Cafferys spent several months in Lafayette that year and the friendship ripened. Later Joel visited the Cafferys in Rome and at that time decided to live in Europe indefinitely.⁴⁹ Mr. Fletcher's love for his son was perhaps his life's greatest compensation. But fate works in strange ways. Joel shared his father's interest in international affairs; he lacked interest in who someone was. Stress was on individual performance. In Europe Fletcher's vast following in Louisiana would scarcely influence Joel's life. Fletcher's library, largely devoted to Louisiana books, interested Joel little. Mr. Fletcher began giving them to friends who properly appreciated them.⁵⁰

Neither Mr. or Mrs. Fletcher ever particularly cared for a trip to Europe until Joel decided to stay in Europe. Then they began planning a trip. One night at a party in New Iberia the conversation turned to their proposed trip. Congressman Edwin Willis commented that the Department of Agriculture needed some information from Italy which Fletcher was qualified to obtain. Subsequently Fletcher received a letter from Secretary of Agriculture Freeman asking him to conduct a study of the potential of the Po Valley for the production of rice for the Common Market. Mrs. Fletcher began packing; Fletcher began contacting people with the rice industry—farmers, millers, buyers, exporters, and extension and experiment specialists on rice. As the news of his study spread, area people began to help him. Many had businesses and family connections in Italy. In Kaplan and Midland the rice mill equipment was being installed by a firm from Vercelli, Italy. The company's representative, a Mr. Camolei, arranged for Fletcher to meet the Italian Trade Commissioner and Italian exporters in New Orleans. The Rice Millers' Association invited the Fletchers to their convention in Biloxi, where they enjoyed a seven-course dinner of genuine Italian food.⁵¹ It was a productive and pleasant trip to Europe. They left from Washington after having been briefed by officials of the Department of Agriculture and rice export organization. Joel, having come down from his school in Florence, met them in Rome. There they visited the Embassy and the Ministry of Agriculture, which was housed in the buildings built by Benito Mussolini for the World's Fair to be held in Rome. While they were there the College of Cardinals sent up their smoke signal noting the election of Pope Paul VI. Unfortunately with their busy schedules, they missed seeing the smoke.⁵² After three days in Rome and three days in Florence, they stayed in Milan for three weeks to complete their in-depth study. There was also a call on the Ministry of Agriculture in Paris. The trip was concluded with two weeks in London

⁴⁸Fletcher Papers, personal, Box 34

⁴⁹Fletcher, op. cit., IV, No. 215, "Jefferson Caffery of Louisiana, Mr. Diplomat of the United States Foreign Service"

⁵⁰Ibid., IV, No. 217, "Books Are Meant to be Read, Not Left on a Shelf"

⁵¹Ibid., II, Nos. 1-15, "Journey to Europe."

⁵²Ibid., II, Nos. 1-2.

where there was time for operas, plays, museums, and visits with friends that included Mrs. Cora Stephens Harris, Dr. Stephens' daughter.⁶³

The physical plant at Southwestern continued to grow. In the summer of 1963 the Louisiana Bond and Building Commission awarded USL a million dollars for a new music building. Professor Willis F. Ducrest, head of the Music Department was jubilant, "It will certainly give us the opportunity of improving standards of work in all areas of music."⁶⁴ The building also released desperately needed space in Burke Hall for the crowded Speech Department. In 1964 New Martin Hall replaced the old administration building. On July 29, 1964, a time capsule was buried in front of Martin and a memorandum was filed in the Archives at Dupré Library requesting its opening on July 29, 2064. Mr. Joseph A. Riehl lowered the metal and plastic capsule, designed by Director of Research Frederick Zurburg and fashioned by Mr. Percy Guidry, into a deep hole that was covered with concrete and a bronze marker. The capsule contained a letter and speech by Mr. Fletcher, a USL Catalog, a pamphlet on Lafayette published by the Chamber of Commerce, an official street map of Lafayette, programs from commencement exercises and homecoming, a copy of "Acadians in Louisiana Today", and a newspaper clipping of the opening of the corner of Old Martin Hall.⁶⁵

1965 in Southwestern history could be called the year of USL New Iberia. The controversy that arose over the plan to open a University branch at New Iberia was akin to that time when New Iberia and Lafayette originally contended for the location of Southwestern. The Department of Defense had announced in 1964 that the United States Naval Auxiliary Air Station located between Lafayette and New Iberia was to be closed in an economy move and the property was to be declared surplus property. New Iberia was shocked and tried unsuccessfully to have the closure order rescinded. On September 3, 1964, USL requested and received unanimous approval of the State Board of Education to apply for the 4,352 acres with all improvements that included a ten-million dollar airport. Initially the buildings were appraised at twenty-six million and the land at two million dollars.⁶⁶

Fletcher began a long, hard struggle to unwind the mountain of red tape necessary to acquire the base. Many meetings and negotiations followed—many as violent as the winds of Hurricane Hilda that developed during this time. To launch the program Fletcher called an informal meeting of city leaders at the First National Bank's Civic Room to explain the opportunity. The group was receptive and the word was go. Formalities in planning were to be met. First, to actually gain the property the requirements of the Government Surplus Department had to be met. Second, the needs of the students were all important. Third, the standards of accreditation established by the Southern Association must be specifically adhered to. And last, the area's interests must be served if support were to be forthcoming. Initially the plan had enthusiastic approval of leaders like James Domengeaux and Maurice Heymann.⁶⁷ But as time went by, Lafayette citizens began to worry about the economic consequence of the plan of moving to New Iberia the freshman, the largest class. Nearly all of the men who had originally given Fletcher the green light to proceed

⁶³Fletcher, Statement to Press, July 31, 1963, News Bureau, Fletcher File.

⁶⁴"Music Building," *Southwestern Alumni News*, 25 (1963): 2.

⁶⁵News Bureau, Fletcher File, July 29, 1964.

⁶⁶Clipping, U.S. L. Archives, Col. I-R, Box 1, fol. 2, *Franklin Banner Tribune*, September 3, 1964, "State Board OK's Seeking NAAS Facilities for USL."

⁶⁷Statement by D. S. Shine Young, telephone interview, September 26, 1972.

turned their backs on him. One of the first public attacks came from attorney Noel Guiffrida, a former police jury member, who appeared before the Lafayette Police Jury and asked for an investigation, "... a problem has sneaked up on us which would hurt the economy of Lafayette." He said that "by moving out the cattle," USL could expand as it currently existed.⁹⁸ J. Alfred Mouton, Jr., Ronald Gossen, William Robichaux, and Lester P. Domingue of the Police Jury released a statement: "the principal move of the junior division of the university, or any other part, is logically untenable and financially unsound."⁹⁹ The Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, whose president was Louis B. Mann, joined the Police Jury in opposing the transaction, publishing eighteen reasons justifying its opposition.¹⁰⁰

Despite opposition Fletcher continued the plan to open the USL branch at New Iberia. The State Board of Education gave the University permission to issue \$5,000,000 in bonds to construct three dormitories and a dining facility. Dr. Clyde L. Rougeou was named vice-president of Southwestern and head of the New Iberia campus.¹⁰¹ On June 15, 1965, President Fletcher officially accepted the Naval Air Station for U.S.L.; he said, "... today Southwestern really becomes a regional university."¹⁰²

The opposition, primarily concerning the freshmen class issue, became more intense. W. E. Whetstone of the State Board denied the Board's having given permission to Fletcher for the transfer, "Anything he does in that field will have to come before us."¹⁰³ Fletcher insisted that the Board's minutes would verify his stand that indeed he had the Board's permission. The American Association of University Professors supported Mr. Fletcher in a formal statement protesting interference from outside organizations or individuals "no matter how well intentioned" to serve as its spokesman.¹⁰⁴ Although a few individuals spoke out for Fletcher, Mr. Man-of-the-Streets generally remained silent. A special session was called in Baton Rouge to debate the issue. Representing Lafayette opposition was Mayor J. Rayburn Bertrand, who suggested further study. Representing New Iberia support was Mayor Allen Daigre, who gave a chronological review of developments to date. Fletcher stated that he was not afraid of the submitted plans resulting in "watering down" the quality of Southwestern's education or of loss of accreditation, but he was afraid of political interference. The Board asked for a detailed plan on the University's plan for its freshmen¹⁰⁵ and Fletcher complied by November 5.¹⁰⁶

Abruptly, Fletcher resigned. He retired to aloofness and his usual silence at Le Bocage Vert. Simultaneously Riehl resigned also. It is the writer's opinion, based on numerous concurring opinions, that Fletcher had no intention of ever sending all Southwestern freshmen to New Iberia.

⁹⁸Clipping, U.S.L. Archives, Col. I-R, Box 1, fol. 2, *Daily Advertiser*, August 14, 1964, "Police Jury Vows to Stop USL Move."

⁹⁹*Ibid.*, August 28, 1964

¹⁰⁰Clipping, U.S.L. Archives, Col. I-R, Box 1, fol. 2, *Daily Advertiser*, August 17, 1965, p. 1, "18 Reasons Given Opposing U.S.L. Move."

¹⁰¹Clipping, U.S.L. Archives, Col. I-R, Box 1, fol. 2, *Daily Advertiser*, May 21, 1965, "USL to Issue \$5 Million Bonds."

¹⁰²News Bureau Release, "President Fletcher's Remarks at Naval Air Base," June 15, 1965.

¹⁰³Clipping, U.S.L. Archives, Col. I-R, Box 1, fol. 2, *Daily Advertiser*, August 10, 1965, "Approval Not Yet Given on Freshmen to New Iberia," p. 1 (headlines).

¹⁰⁴Clipping, U.S.L. Archives, Col. I-R, Box 1, fol. 2, *Morning Advocate*, August 14, 1965, "Faculty Group at U.S.L. Issues Policy Statement," p. 9.

¹⁰⁵Clipping, U.S.L. Archives, Col. I-R, Box 1, fol. 2, *Daily Advertiser*, August 19, 1965, "Education Board Holds Permission Until USL Reports."

¹⁰⁶News Bureau, Fletcher File, introductory statement to the brochure, "Recommendations Relative to the Establishment of the Education Center of the U. of S.L."

He had hoped to use the base for highly skilled, vocational technical training. He had taken necessary steps to procure for Southwestern a most valuable asset. But he was physically and mentally weary of fighting Louisiana politics. He was bitter and physically ill. And he was too stubborn to make a simple statement that would have salvaged his reputation and prestige by saying, "I never intended for New Iberia to be used for freshmen." He had expected no gratitude, but neither did he deserve attacks on his integrity. He was past the age of retirement, now sixty-eight, and in a position to participate in the selection of his successor. When the State Board nominated Clyde L. Rougeou as Southwestern's fourth president, Fletcher said the appointment met "with my great approval."¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁷Weber, "Joel Lafayette Fletcher," p. 10.

A HISTORY OF PETROLEUM IN SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA DISCOVERY AND EARLY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT 1901-1911

by
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INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana petroleum industry directly or indirectly affects the lives of many citizens in the state. This makes it a topic worthy of study. Yet because of its magnitude and complexity, a complete coverage of all the developments which have taken place within the industry since its formation is beyond the scope of a master's thesis. For this reason the following monograph will explore one segment of the oil industry in Louisiana in detail—the formation and subsequent growth of the petroleum industry in Southwest Louisiana during the period before 1911. This study hopefully will shed some light on an area which has played a prominent role in the petroleum industry's history and which has received only scant attention from historians or other writers.

The focus here consists primarily of a narrative and chronological account of the developing interest in Southwest Louisiana's petroleum resources, particularly during the period 1901-1911. No attempt has been made to measure or interpret the impact of the industry on the area's existing sociocultural institutions. Southwest Louisiana is defined as that part of the state extending westward from the Atchafalaya River to the Texas border at the Sabine River and south from the Central Louisiana town of Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico. This region includes the parishes of Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, Jefferson Davis, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion.

Three phases of development marked the history of oil in Southwest Louisiana before 1911. During the period before 1901 Indian, Spanish, British, French, and American explorers and settlers encountered oil and gas in the region. There were several unsuccessful and abortive attempts to establish a petroleum industry in Southwest Louisiana shortly before and immediately after the Civil War. At the end of the nineteenth century, Anthony F. Lucas, the renowned discoverer of the famous Spindletop oil field near Beaumont, Texas, sought unsuccessfully to find oil in Southwest Louisiana. The second phase of the industry's history begins with the discovery of oil near the town of Jennings on September 21, 1901. An account of subsequent oil discoveries in Southwest Louisiana at Vinton, Welsh, and Anse la Butte is included in the

examination of this period in the industry's history. During the third stage, 1903-1911, the Jennings field became the state's largest producing oil field and then declined as a significant producer. While other Southwest Louisiana oil fields continued to produce modest quantities of oil, the Jennings field's failure marked the end of an era in which Southwest Louisiana was the state's major oil center. This section also includes a discussion of the political, competitive and organizational forces which began very early to shape the industry.

The author has relied to a great extent on primary sources in composing this thesis. He has made extensive use of federal and state publications, archival materials, manuscripts and personal interviews. The *Oil Investor's Journal*, a reference containing the most complete and accurate account of the Southwest Louisiana petroleum industry throughout the period covered by this monograph, has served as an indispensable guide. The remaining information comes from contemporary newspaper accounts, oil trade journals, scholarly publications and the small number of books relating to the topic.

CHAPTER I

OIL AND GAS IN SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA PRIOR TO 1900

The history of oil and gas in Southwest Louisiana dates back many hundreds of years prior to the discovery of North America by Columbus. One authority notes that "before the white man came, it was known that oil existed in small quantities in western Louisiana and Texas, within 100 [miles] . . . , more or less, of the present site of Beaumont."¹ Indians throughout this area made frequent visits to the numerous oil springs or seeps. According to their legends, they used the oil primarily as an ointment to cure ulcers, sores, and rheumatic pains.² The natives placed great faith in the curative powers of petroleum and may have informed early French, Spanish, and American settlers of its whereabouts.³

The earliest documented account of the use of petroleum in North America refers to Southwest Louisiana. This reference appears in the journal of one of the ill-fated survivors of Hernando Soto's expedition which travelled through Louisiana by way of the Mississippi River in the summer of 1543. On July 18 the Spaniards reached the Gulf of Mexico and immediately set sail in several "brigantines" for New Spain. Bad weather and a shortage of fresh water were among the problems which confronted these adventurers from the outset of their journey. On July 25, seven days after entering the gulf, stormy seas forced them to land. After the storm the ships rendezvoused in a "creek" where, according to the narrative, the Spaniards found a crude form of petroleum which they used to repair their ships.⁴ Topographical descriptions of this area suggest

¹Robert T. Hill, "The Beaumont Oil-Field, with Notes on Other Oil-Fields of the Texas Region," *American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, Transactions*, XXXIII (1903), 380. (Hereinafter cited as AIME.)

²New Orleans Times, May 7, 1866, p. 10.

³Harold F. Williamson and Arnold R. Daum, *The American Petroleum Industry: The Age of Illumination, 1859-1890*, I (Evanston Northwestern University Press, 1959), 8-14.

⁴In Spanish, the word for creek can also mean river, small bay, stream, or bayou.

that the creek spoken of by the Spaniards was probably the Calcasieu River or possibly the Sabine River, both located in what is now Southwest Louisiana.⁵

Late in the seventeenth century English explorers also noted the existence of oil in Southwest Louisiana. In 1698 an English merchant named Daniel Coxe fitted out an expedition to explore the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River. In his journal Coxe noted that petroleum was known to exist in the area, particularly in the springs and marshes, along the coast of Southwest Louisiana.

There is agreed upon by the learned to be a bitumen or naptha, which comes from certain springs or fountains that empty themselves into the sea, and is coagulated by the salt water, and in storms cast upon the coast: There is found in great quantities upon the same coast, on the shore to the east and west of the Meschacebe especially after high south winds, a sort of stone pitch, by the Spaniards called copae, which they likewise find in the South Sea, upon the coast of Peru. They mix it with grease to make it more liquid, and use it as a pitch for their vessels and affirm it to be better in hot countries, not being apt to melt with the heat of the sun or weather.⁶

Prior to Coxe's journey, other English explorers sent to locate the Mississippi River had confirmed Spanish reports that a petroleum-like substance abounded in that area. These early adventurers charted two places along the Gulf Coast where oil of "a very strong smell" floated for many leagues into the sea.⁷

No further written evidence relating to the discovery or use of oil or gas in Southwest Louisiana can be found until the appearance in 1812 of *Sketches, Historical and Descriptive, of Louisiana* in which Major Amos Stoddard described an island to the west of the Atchafalaya River "known to be on fire for at least three months." Though Stoddard did not identify the island, its designated location coincides with Belle Isle, one of the Five Islands or Fire Islands located in Southwest Louisiana along the Gulf Coast. Belle Isle contained a mineral spring which inhabitants regarded with favor because of the supposed medicinal value of the oil which floated on the surface of the water. Evidence indicates that fires occurred along the banks of or in the vicinity of the mineral spring when the highly volatile oil was somehow ignited.⁸ Between 1819-1821 two government surveyors, James Leander Cathcart and James Hutton, visited Belle Isle and reported that "a number of gentlemen" had seen the banks of this same spring "on fire several years ago."⁹

Evidence suggests that many Southwest Louisianians knew of the existence of oil and gas seeps in their region. As early as 1833 gas bubbles were seen "boiling" on the surface of the water of Bayou Bouillon in St. Martin Parish.¹⁰ In 1839, William M. Carpenter, writing in the

⁵Benjamin F. French (comp.), *Historical Collections of Louisiana . . .* (2 vols.; Philadelphia: Daniels and Smith, 1850), II, 210-215.

⁶Parts of Coxe's journal were published in the *New Orleans Times*, March 18, 1866, p. 17, under the title "Petroleum and Salt in Louisiana."

⁷Ibid.

⁸Amos Stoddard, *Sketches, Historical and Descriptive of Louisiana* (Philadelphia: Mathew Carey, 1812), 179-180. See also Gilbert D. Harris and A. C. Voatch, *A Preliminary Report on the Geology of Louisiana*, Louisiana Geological Survey, Report of 1889 (Baton Rouge, 1899), p. 223.

⁹Photostatic copy of the journal kept by James L. Cathcart and James Hutton, 1819-1821, in Gulf Coast Petroleum Collection, Southwestern Archives and Manuscripts Collection, University of Southwestern Louisiana. (Hereinafter cited as SAMC.)

¹⁰David Donoghue, "The Bayou Bouillon Salt Dome, St. Martin Parish, Louisiana," *American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Bulletin IX*, 9 (December, 1925), 1283. (Hereinafter cited as AAPG.) Bayou Bouillon is located sixteen miles northeast of the town of St. Martinville.

American Journal of Science, referred to the numerous springs of petroleum in the lowlying lands along the Calcasieu and Sabine rivers.¹¹ In the Calcasieu region alone, oil flowed from thirteen natural springs at a rate of between three and four barrels per day. Local residents used it as a fuel, as medicine, and as a lubricant for their farm machinery.¹² Finally, records of the Louisiana Geological Survey indicate that as early as 1850 inhabitants of the area knew of "surface gas of inflammable properties . . . along Bayou Teche and Vermilion."¹³

Crude oil had little value as an article of commerce in the first half of the nineteenth century. Aside from its limited medicinal usefulness, the only utilitarian value of oil prior to 1850 was as a lubricant. During the 1850s, however, a number of new refining techniques succeeded in turning crude oil into an illuminant which proved less expensive and troublesome than the coal and whale oil which supplied most of the nation's needs. The growing demands of refiners further stimulated a world-wide search for crude oil.¹⁴

The first important breakthrough in the search for larger supplies of oil came largely through the efforts of Edwin L. Drake. In the early summer of 1859, Drake purchased salt well drilling equipment and a steam engine and began drilling for oil near Titusville, Pennsylvania. On August 27 Drake struck oil at a depth of 69 1/2 feet, marking the birth of the petroleum industry in America. Petroleum had been secured either from natural oil seeps or skimmed off the surface of water in wells or brine pits; Drake was the first to try to find oil by drilling. Following his example, prospectors within a short time located oil in several other states near Pennsylvania thus touching off a period of excitement which resulted in a nation-wide search for oil.¹⁵

"Oil fever" soon spread to Southwest Louisiana. In 1860 Paschal Beverly Randolph, sage, philosopher, seer, and clairvoyant, in his *After Death Or the Disembodiment of Man*, alluded to a "lake of oil" below the surface of Southwest Louisiana:

. . . [It] required a million buried flora to throw down the noxious vapors and condense them into fibers, to be converted into coal beds and petroleum lakes; Just like the mighty bay of oil now underlying the parishes of Southeastern [sic] Louisiana among which are St. Martin, Rapides, Vermilion, Lafayette, and Calcasieu, a body large and deep enough to furnish fuel to the world for a century.¹⁶

In 1860 Louisiana oil prospectors sent samples of crude petroleum from the Calcasieu Parish oil springs to New York for analysis. Tests showed that the oil, if refined, would make an excellent illuminant.¹⁷ About this time an unidentified group of entrepreneurs began organizing an oil company capitalized at \$150,000 to work the Calcasieu oil springs. The Civil War brought an abrupt end to the enterprise,¹⁸ but one Southwest Louisianian, a Dr. Kirkman, the local physician in the Sulphur area, had succeeded in drilling a well for oil. Kirkman's well, drilled with primitive

¹¹William M. Carpenter, "Miscellaneous Notices in Opelousas, Attakapas, Etc.," *American Journal of Science and Arts*, XXXV, 2 (1839), 345.

¹²New Orleans Times, April 19, 1866, p. 6.

¹³Undated photostatic copies of the Louisiana Geological Survey, Grover Rees Collection, SAMC.

¹⁴*Petroleum Panorama: An Issue of the Oil and Gas Journal to Commemorate Oil's First One Hundred Years*, Vol. LVII, *Oil and Gas Journal* (January 8, 1959), A-2.

¹⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁶Parts of Randolph's book were published in the *Abbeville Mercantile*, October 24, 1957, p. 7.

¹⁷New Orleans Times, May 7, 1866, p. 10.

¹⁸Available evidence makes no mention of the name of the oil company.

techniques near the oil springs of Calcasieu, reached 450 feet before the venture was aborted by a gravel clogged drill pipe.¹⁹

Louisiana officials devoted some attention to developing the state's petroleum resources during and after the Civil War. War Governor Henry Watkins Allen was determined to make Louisiana self sufficient by utilizing fully the state's raw materials.²⁰ He commissioned John B. Robertson, a man well acquainted with the natural resources of the state, to make a thorough study of its agricultural, mineral, and manufacturing potentials.²¹ Governor Allen also appointed a geologist and mining engineer, Charles N. Tripp, to examine and report on the mineral resources of the western portion of the state. After a thorough exploration of the Calcasieu area, particularly the petroleum springs, Tripp speculated that if the oil resources of the Calcasieu region alone could be developed they would surpass any in the nation. According to Tripp, the superior quality of the oil emanating from the region's natural springs, the abundance of nearby timber resources, and the proximity to navigation would combine to make Calcasieu the most productive oil region in the nation.²²

By the time Robertson completed his report, the Civil War was over. Louisiana's new governor, J. Madison Wells, learning that Robertson's report did not include the Calcasieu area, requested that he make a visit to that region "for the purpose of ascertaining its geological structure, and the probability of finding petroleum in workable quantity."²³ In compliance with the request, Robertson reported to the state legislature in January 1867 on the feasibility of developing Calcasieu into an oil-producing region. He stressed that proper development of the area would bring untold millions of dollars into the state. He predicted that if oil were found there in sufficient quantities, the leasing of state land near Calcasieu would easily bring in enough revenue to pay Louisiana's war debt and relieve the people of taxes for years. Louisiana, he suggested, might have unsurpassed resources in oil:

It would be an extraordinary and grateful compensation for our losses should we, in this hour of our poverty and need, discover that Louisiana had the richest deposit of oil in the world; and such I believe is the case.²⁴

Following the war, business oriented Louisianians, realizing that industrialization was the key to the future development of the state as well as the South in general, hoped to reconstruct the economy by developing the mineral and manufacturing resources on an equal basis with agriculture.²⁵ State newspapers took the lead in propagating the New South credo by urging businessmen and others to promote Louisiana's industrial development.²⁶ The *New Orleans Times* argued that the petroleum industry would attract new people into the state, create a

¹⁹P. K. Kelley, "The Sulphur Salt Dome, Louisiana," *AAPG, Bulletin*, IX, 3 (January-December, 1925), 479.

²⁰Vincent H. Cassidy and Amos E. Simpson, *Henry Watkins Allen of Louisiana* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964), p. 103.

²¹John B. Robertson, *Memorial and Explorations of the Honorable J. B. Robertson, in Relation to the Agricultural, Mineral, and Manufacturing Resources of the State* . . . (New Orleans: J. O. Nixon, 1867), pp. 5, 1-17.

²²*New Orleans Times*, May 13, 1866, p. 2.

²³Robertson, *Memorial*, n.p.

²⁴Robertson, *Memorial*, p. 14.

²⁵*New Orleans Daily Crescent*, April 23, 1866, p. 2; see also Robertson, *Memorial*, pp. 14-17.

²⁶New Orleans newspapers took the lead in promoting industry, particularly of the state's undeveloped petroleum resources. Several of these newspapers went as far as selling stock for two petroleum companies which were in the process of organization.

demand for both skilled and unskilled labor, require the establishment of distilleries and refineries, develop navigational facilities, and stimulate "great trade" between the oil producing region and the city of New Orleans.²⁷ The *New Orleans Bee* maintained that income from petroleum would offset the commercial losses to the North resulting from the Civil War, and stressed the benefits enjoyed by the North as a result of the development of the petroleum industry there.²⁸ Another paper published a lengthy article on the oil resources of Pennsylvania which had brought immeasurable wealth to that state.²⁹ Within less than a year following the ending of the Civil War, "oil fever" was epidemic in Louisiana.³⁰

Early in 1866 oil prospectors and speculators were reportedly "hovering" around Southwest Louisiana, particularly the Calcasieu oil springs.³¹ Rumors circulated that they had found enough petroleum, "to justify their zeal and make the hunt exciting."³² Within days speculators offered a New Iberia land owner \$200,000 for property which they believed would yield large amounts of oil. Although the proprietor refused to sell, he did accept \$20,000 for the privilege of prospecting his land, retaining an interest in any profits.³³ The speculators quickly bought up all the nearby, purchasable lands.³⁴

The Louisiana Petroleum and Coal Oil Company, the state's first oil firm, was organized in early 1866. The *New Orleans Times* published the prospectus of the Company:

This Company is organized for the purpose of purchasing a ten year's lease of the natural oil wells in Calcasieu Parish with the exclusive right to dig or bore for Coal Oil or Petroleum in a tract of land of about fourteen hundred . . . acres, which embraces the old and well-known natural Oil Wells in said parish together with the right to use the timber and pasturage on said lands, to erect the necessary works, machinery, . . . and to operate the same for the purpose of refining the oil, if they see proper to do so.³⁵

The capital stock, valued at \$100,000, was to be divided into one thousand shares and sold at \$100 each.³⁶ The chief officers of Louisiana Petroleum, with headquarters at New Orleans, were Judge William G. Swan, president; L. A. Fournier, secretary; and Colonel I. W. Patton, treasurer. They were reputed to be "good men, to whom the interest of the company may be safely confided."³⁷

In June, 1866, Louisiana Petroleum leased lands belonging to Hilaire Escoubas and Truxton Lowell, which included most of the natural oil springs of the Calcasieu region.³⁸ The company

²⁷April 26, 1866, p. 6.

²⁸February 20, 1866, p. 2. The full title of the *Bee* is *L'Abeille de la Nouvelle Orleans*.

²⁹*New Orleans Daily Crescent*, April 28, 1866, p. 2.

³⁰*New Orleans Bee*, February 20, 1866, p. 2. The *Bee* stated that "petroleumiferous lands are in more request to capitalists than gold placers."

³¹*New Orleans Daily Picayune*, February 24, 1866, p. 6; see also *New Orleans Bee*, February 20, 1866, p. 2.

³²*New Orleans Bee*, February 20, 1866, p. 2.

³³*New Orleans Daily Picayune*, February 24, 1866, p. 6.

³⁴*New Orleans Bee*, February 20, 1866, p. 2.

³⁵*New Orleans Times*, April 22, 1866, p. 8.

³⁶*Ibid.*

³⁷*New Orleans Daily Crescent*, April 30, 1866, p. 2.

³⁸*Escoubas et al. v. Louisiana Petroleum and Coal Oil Company*, 22 Louisiana Reports: Annotated Edition 280 (1870) (Hereinafter cited as *Escoubas v. L.P.C.O.C.*).

then drilled a well in the fresh water swamp at the head of Bayou Choupique, about fifteen miles west of Lake Charles.³⁹ Sand soaked with petroleum was found at 160 feet. Further down the drillers discovered traces of oil and gas but not in sufficient quantities to justify commercial production. After reaching 1230 feet, the well was abandoned.⁴⁰ Extant evidence does not indicate the precise method of drilling used by the oil company but it is known that the whole work was performed by steam propelling a maul "rigged like a pile driver."⁴¹ The drilling equipment was apparently the standard cable tool rig used throughout the country prior to 1900.⁴²

Although the Louisiana Petroleum and Coal Oil Company did not strike oil in large quantities, it did locate, at a depth of approximately 450 feet, a bed of crystallized sulphur nearly one hundred feet thick.⁴³ The sulphur discovery led to the first law suit in Louisiana involving a petroleum company. Both the land owners and the oil company claimed the right to the sulphur deposit. According to the terms of its lease, Louisiana Petroleum was entitled to one-half of any mineral resources found under the land. The proprietors, however, contended that the Company had lost the right to continue working the land because it failed to live up to the terms of the agreement specifying that it carry on the search for oil "to the full extent possible." Louisiana Petroleum, on the other hand, declared that it had acted "in the most judicious manner" in fulfilling its obligations. In a decision rendered in 1870 the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled in favor of the land owners, awarding them full possession of their lands.⁴⁴

Meanwhile, in 1866, another oil company was organized to develop a seven thousand acre tract of land near Louisiana Petroleum's lease.⁴⁵ The Louisiana Petroleum and Mining Company, unlike its sister firm, obtained land holdings from the state under "conditional patents." The *New Orleans Times* expressed the hope that the "faith and honor" of the state, as well as its warranty obligations, would be pledged "for the maintenance of that title against the claims of all outside parties."⁴⁶ The Texas and New Orleans Railroad, hoping to increase its business, offered to extend its line over this property. Unfortunately for both the oil company and the railroad, no oil was found in commercial quantities.⁴⁷

Both attempts to establish a petroleum industry in Southwest Louisiana following the Civil War failed, and no further organized attempt was made until the beginning of the twentieth century. Numerous factors contributed to these early failures. Political instability in Louisiana hindered investment in the state's nascent oil business. A major oil discovery in North Louisiana in September 1866, was not exploited because Pennsylvania oil men and capitalists feared the "unsettled condition of the country."⁴⁸ The depression of 1866 in the petroleum industry, caused

³⁹Harris and Veatch, *Preliminary Report*, p. 126.

⁴⁰*New Orleans Times Picayune*, October 22, 1867, Sec. 7, p. 4.

⁴¹Robertson, *Memorial*, p. 16.

⁴²Cable tools operated on the percussion principle, whereby the drill pipe was driven by maul action into the ground.

⁴³Harris and Veatch, *Preliminary Report*, p. 126.

⁴⁴*Escoubas v. L.P.O.C.*, 22 Louisiana 290 (1870).

⁴⁵*New Orleans Times*, April 26, 1866, p. 6.

⁴⁶The name of the company is given in Robertson, *Memorial*, p. 16.

⁴⁷Exactly how much oil was produced by the companies is unknown, however the *New Orleans Daily Crescent*, April 28, 1866, p. 2, pointed out that "surface wells" in that area turned out about three barrels per day.

⁴⁸Carl Coke Rister, *Oil: Titan of the Southwest* (Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1949), p. 6.

by overproduction, also helped stifle investment.⁴⁹ Another hindrance was the relative scarcity of capital in Louisiana after the Civil War. Apparently a combination of these factors led to the dissolution of the Louisiana Petroleum and Coal Oil Company in 1870. The Louisiana supreme court stated that the Company was deeply in debt, was without funds, and was resorting to the "desperate expedient" of paying its workmen in company stock.⁵⁰ Large amounts of northern capital did not begin to flow into the state until the late 1870s.⁵¹

Regardless of these failures, reports of large quantities of oil underlying Southwest Louisiana continued to circulate throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century, an idea to which many Southwest Louisianians subscribed. One authority on the resources of the state wrote in 1881 that "they have never yet struck the desired fountain of oil, but will doubtless find it at some future day, in the Southwestern part of the State, in large quantities."⁵² Other experts suggested that "... [only] in the hands of experienced engineers, [could] quantities of this valuable material ... be obtained."⁵³ It was only a matter of time before both predictions would come true.

In 1893 a young mining engineer, Anthony F. Lucas, came to Southwest Louisiana to supervise salt mining operations at Avery Island, located in Iberia Parish about nine miles southeast of the town of New Iberia. Lucas, known to his associates as the "Captain," knew little about petroleum at the time he began working for the salt company, but his experiences in the mining industry in Southwest Louisiana led him to believe that oil existed in large quantities there and made him a major figure in the development of the industry in the United States.⁵⁴

Anthony Lucas was born in Spalatro, Dalmatia, in 1855. At the age of twenty he graduated as an engineer from the Polytechnic Institute of Gratz and following a brief tour of duty in the Austrian navy emigrated to the United States.⁵⁵ His early career in the United States involved a miscellany of unrelated experiences. He worked as an engineer in a Michigan sawmill, prospected for gold in Colorado, and finally took on the job of mining supervisor in an isolated salt mine in Southwest Louisiana.⁵⁶

One of the first things Lucas observed while supervising mining operations at Avery Island was the peculiar formation of the rock salt found there. Several borings into and around the salt suggested that it was formed in a gigantic mound or dome rather than in a stratified layer, as previously believed.⁵⁷ Additional drillings demonstrated the presence of oil in connection with the salt.⁵⁸ In vain Lucas combed state and national libraries for information which would explain this peculiar phenomenon. Finding nothing of value, Lucas was forced to resort to "his own senses for guidance."⁵⁹

⁴⁹Williamson and Daum, *The American Petroleum Industry*, p. 125.

⁵⁰*Escoubas v. L.P.C.O.C.*, 22 Louisiana 280 (1870).

⁵¹Edwin A. Davis, *Louisiana: A Narrative History* (Baton Rouge: Claitor's Book Store, 1961), pp. 274-275.

⁵²Daniel Dennett, *Louisiana As It Is* (New Orleans: Eureka Press, 1876), p. 135.

⁵³William H. Harris, *Louisiana Products, Resources, and Attractions* ... (New Orleans: n.p., 1881), p. 60.

⁵⁴For a brief account of the life of Anthony F. Lucas see Reid Sayers McBeth, *Pioneering the Gulf Coast: A Story of the Life and Accomplishments of Captain Anthony F. Lucas* (n.p., n.d.).

⁵⁵McBeth, *Pioneering*, pp. 6-7.

⁵⁶Ruth Sheldon Knowles, *The Greatest Gamblers: The Epic of American Oil Exploration* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1959), p. 25.

⁵⁷Anthony F. Lucas, "Rock-Salt in Louisiana," *AIME, Transactions*, XXIX (February-September, 1899), p. 466.

⁵⁸David T. Day, "Development and Economic Influence of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the Southern States," *The South in the Building of the Nation*, ed. Julian A.C. Chandler et al (Richmond: The Southern Publication Society, 1909), VI, 192.

⁵⁹McBeth, *Pioneering*, p. 72.

In 1895 Lucas was invited to take charge of salt drilling operations at Jefferson Island, located about five miles northwest of Avery Island.⁶⁰ Joseph Jefferson, a famous actor and owner of the island, allowed Lucas to bore a number of holes around the salt mass in order to determine its contour and depth. The findings indicated that the horizontal area of the salt extended only a short distance in comparison to its great depth, thus confirming a dome like shape. Lucas was still more impressed by the quantities of petroleum which the drillings turned up.⁶¹ He wondered whether the salt domes were similar to the oil-bearing structures called anticlines located in the northern United States.⁶²

Lucas, at his own expense, began drilling in 1896 at Belle Isle, the southeastermost of the Five Islands. Several accounts credit him with drilling exclusively for oil, but apparently this was not the case. He did not rule out the possibility of finding other valuable minerals, including salt and sulphur.⁶³ When he found traces of oil in several of the wells drilled at Belle Isle, he became convinced that petroleum had accumulated around salt masses. But the lack of sufficient capital to investigate further at Belle Isle, forced him to discontinue the operations.⁶⁴

Anthony Lucas next began searching for evidence of salt domes in other parts of Southwest Louisiana. On weekends he made excursion trips as far as Texas, exploring coastal uplifts or protrusions which might indicate the presence of a salt dome.⁶⁵ He concluded, on the basis of evidence gathered on these outings, that salt domes abounded throughout much of Southwest Louisiana and that petroleum would be found accompanying them.⁶⁶

In 1899 Lucas began drilling for oil at Anse la Butte, located about five miles east of the city of Lafayette. He was seemingly attracted to the area by a slight elevation or "butte" under which he believed was a salt dome. Lucas believed that seepages of escaping oil and gas around and on top of the butte proved the existence of petroleum beneath.⁶⁷ But the Anse la Butte project was a disaster. After the well had reached a depth of 523 feet, Lucas had to abandon it. In his own words, because of a "limited amount of capital," and "too sanguine hopes of large and ready returns," he had hired a contractor who was largely responsible for the failure of this enterprise. He still believed that oil existed in large amounts at a greater depth. In a letter to a business acquaintance he expressed the belief that a much deeper well would have to be drilled in order to tap the main reservoir of petroleum in that region. Discouraged, Lucas concluded that he had given his time, best efforts, and good will to all concerned in the venture, but "would not accept again the responsibilities under the same condition of things for all the mines of Golconda."⁶⁸

In the wake of failure and encouraged by an advertisement in a manufacturing Journal mentioning the possible existence of oil and sulphur at a place called Big Hill, near Beaumont, the

⁶⁰Anthony F. Lucas, "The Avery Island Salt Mine and the Joseph Jefferson Salt Deposit, Louisiana," *Engineering, and Mining Journal*, LXII (July-December, 1896), 464.

⁶¹Day, "Development and Economic Influence of Petroleum," 192.

⁶²McBeth, *Pioneering*, p. 9.

⁶³Lucas, "Rock Salt," 469.

⁶⁴McBeth, *Pioneering*, 59.

⁶⁵James A. Clark and Michel T. Halbouty (New York: Random House, 1952), p. 30.

⁶⁶Lucas also concluded that salt domes abounded in southeast Texas, particularly in the coastal region.

⁶⁷Miscellaneous clippings, Grover Rees Collection, SAMC.

⁶⁸Letter, Anthony Lucas to Walter Burke, February 9, 1900, Gulf Coast Petroleum Collection, SAMC.

Lucas left for Texas.⁶⁹

At the turn of the century, most Southwest Louisianians had put aside any hope for a petroleum industry in their part of the state. Most were likely to concede that the acquisition of the valuable material would take a great deal more effort than had previously been exerted. In 1899, the state's first *Geological Survey Report* listed petroleum in Louisiana under "unimportant mineral products."⁷⁰

CHAPTER II

THE BIRTH OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA, 1901-1903

In 1899, Anthony F. Lucas, disheartened by his failure to find oil in Louisiana, left for Beaumont, Texas, where he began searching for sulphur. Lucas believed that the emanations of gas and sulphur water located on a large hill south of that city were indicative of a salt dome surrounded by large amounts of sulphur and oil. After several unsuccessful attempts to find the sulphur deposits, he began drilling for oil.⁷¹

More than a year later, on a cold January morning in 1901, news reached Anthony Lucas in Beaumont that following a loud explosion beneath the oil derrick, his well had begun spouting a column of oil. The explosion, it was later learned, was the result of a "blow-out" in which the pressure of escaping oil and gas had lifted nearly six tons of pipe from within the well high into the air above the derrick.⁷² The Lucas well, which "gushed an estimated 75,000 to 100,000 barrels of oil per day, was the first to tap the oil resources of the Gulf Coastal Plain and the largest producing oil well in the world up to that time."⁷³

Lucas' discovery ushered in a new era in the history of the American petroleum industry. The discovery well, Lucas No. 1, produced more oil in one day than all the other oil fields in the nation combined. Within hours, news of the discovery spread across the nation and swarms of people from all areas of the country began to converge upon Beaumont. The little town, which at times had to accommodate as many as five times its normal number of inhabitants, was soon to become the headquarters for America's greatest "oil boom."⁷⁴

It was not surprising that "oil fever" quickly spread to neighboring Southwest Louisiana where people still remembered Anthony Lucas' attempts to find oil at Anse la Butte. Louisiana newspapers generated excitement with detailed accounts of each new development at Spindletop. The Louisiana Geological Survey reported that speculators seized upon every indication of oil to lease land:

⁶⁹Clark and Halbouty, *Spindletop*, p. 27.

⁷⁰Harris and Veatch, *Preliminary Report*, p. 223.

⁷¹James A. Clark and Michel T. Halbouty, *Spindletop* (New York: Random House, 1962), pp. 79-83.

⁷²Anthony F. Lucas, "The Great Oil-Well Near Beaumont, Texas," *American Institute of Mining Engineers, Transactions*, XXXI (February, 1901), 362-363, hereafter cited as AIME.

⁷³No agreement has ever been reached as to the exact output of the well. The Lucas well was typical of most Gulf Coast oil wells located around salt domes which initially produced great amounts of oil followed by a general decline in output within a year or two.

⁷⁴Clark and Halbouty, *Spindletop*, pp. 80-93.

Every low swell of ground, every known seepage of oil, every locality where gas was known to be issuing from the ground; in short, practically every spot that seemed to show the existence of what we now call domes at or beneath the surface was quickly leased. . . .⁷⁵

On September 21, 1901, slightly more than eight months after the Lucas discovery, oil was found near Jennings in Southwest Louisiana. Subsequent discoveries followed shortly in Southwest Louisiana at Bayou Bouillon, Anse la Butte, Vinton, and Welsh. By the end of 1901 seventy-six oil companies capitalized at over \$40,000,000 had been formed to drill for oil in Louisiana.⁷⁶

W. Scott Heywood, the man responsible for discovering commercial quantities of oil in Louisiana, near Jennings, was in California when the Lucas well was brought in. Heywood was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 21, 1872. As a young man he became an accomplished cornet player, touring the country with a number of well-known musical groups. While playing in Florence, Colorado, Heywood had occasion to visit the nearby Florence oil field. Here fortunes were being made overnight by novice oil prospectors. Recognizing that there was more money to be made in oil than in music, Heywood decided then and there to get into the petroleum business as a part-time oil prospector.⁷⁷

Heywood next moved to California where he acquired a considerable knowledge of the oil business and seemed well on the way to making his fortune as an oil man. News of the gold strike in the Klondike, however, sent him scurrying off to Alaska. After three unsuccessful years there, he returned to California to organize the Crescent Oil Company, which he served as manager and field director. Scott Heywood later recalled that after reading a newspaper account of the Lucas "gusher," he decided to leave for Texas:

I immediately made up my mind to see this strike and try to get in on the ground floor, if possible. I purchased a round trip ticket to Beaumont and left at once. I wired my brothers, telling them I was going to Beaumont, and asked that one of them meet me, if possible.⁷⁸

Within days of his arrival in Beaumont, Scott Heywood with the help of his brother Dewey obtained a fifteen-acre tract of land near the Lucas well, raised the capital needed to finance the drilling of a well, and engaged the services of a drilling contractor. Leaving his brother Dewey in charge of operations, he then returned to California to settle his business affairs. Shortly before Heywood's departure, Beaumont had been startled by the announcement of a representative of Standard Oil attesting to the poor quality of Beaumont oil. The large amount of sulphur and asphalt in the crude oil would make it impossible, it was argued, to refine it into a good illuminant or lamp oil.⁷⁹ Heywood, in a rebuttal printed in a local newspaper, maintained that if the oil could not be made into first-rate illuminant, it would still make an excellent fuel. He further

⁷⁵G. D. Harris, "Rock Salt, Its Origin, Geological Occurrences and Economic Importance in the State of Louisiana," Louisiana Geological Survey, Bulletin No. 7 (1908), 121. The Beaumont oil field was also referred to as Spindletop.

⁷⁶New Orleans Times-Picayune, October 22, 1907, Sec. VII, p. 1, col. 2.

⁷⁷W. Scott Heywood, "The Autobiography of an Oil Man," *Oil* 1, 4 (May, 1941), 33 and 1, 2 (March 1941), 25.

⁷⁸Heywood, "Autobiography," *Oil* 1, 2 (March, 1941), 25.

⁷⁹Standard failed to realize that there were other possibilities for the use of Gulf Coast petroleum such as for fuel. See Harold F. Williamson and others, *The American Petroleum Industry: The Age of Energy, 1899-1959*, II (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1963), pp. 1-40.

added that the South, just then embarking on the road to industrialization, had a wonderful potential as a fuel oil market.⁶⁰

The Heywood lease near Beaumont proved to be as productive in yielding oil as any other tract of land in the surrounding region. Initial drilling on the land resulted in several large oil strikes. The two most prolific oil wells on the Heywood lease initially produced an estimated 163,000 barrels of oil per day. These discoveries led Scott Heywood and his brothers Alba, O.W., and Dewey to organize the Heywood Oil Company. The Company soon became a major supplier of fuel oil to the businessmen and manufacturers of the entire Gulf Coastal region.⁶¹

As the market for Beaumont oil increased, oilmen increasingly turned their attention to the surrounding regions in hopes of finding new deposits of petroleum. Heywood Oil appointed Scott as its chief prospector. He later recalled that with the Company's sanction he "took to the road . . . asking here and there about the countryside whether anyone had observed such a phenomenon as gas bubbling out of standing water."⁶² In Sulphur, Louisiana, Heywood was informed that "bubbling it of this kind occurred at nearby Hackberry Island. Upon arrival at the island late in the afternoon, he went immediately to the owner's residence to inquire about securing a lease on the land. Upon learning that Heywood was a Northerner, the proprietor informed him that "Yankees" were not welcome on the island: "There ain't nothing on this island any damn blue-bellied Yank can get. You couldn't get the nights lodging if it wasn't for giving your team a rest. Don't be caught here after 9 o'clock in the morning."⁶³ Scott Heywood left early the next morning for Sulphur, where he caught the train for Beaumont, resolved to confine his prospecting to more friendly areas.⁶⁴

But early in April, 1901, Scott Heywood was approached in his Beaumont office by two businessmen from Jennings, Louisiana, who inquired whether he would be interested in examining with them a number of natural gas seeps on property they had leased near that town. The men, I. D. L. Williams and S. A. Spencer, along with several others, had organized the S. A. Spencer Oil Company after learning that seepages of gas had led to the Spindletop discovery. After considering their offer, Heywood accompanied the men to Jennings.⁶⁵

The representatives of the Spencer Company led Scott Heywood to a large natural gas seep located several miles to the north of Jennings in what is now the southwestern part of Acadia Parish. A quick survey of the area convinced Heywood that it had oil possibilities:

It was plain to me that some geological condition existed, for as we approached the territory where the gas seepage appeared, I noticed that we had a small grade of over a mile to climb. When we reached the top of the grade there was a depression consisting of a shallow lake or marsh condition. To the east of this was a hill similar to Spindletop. The whole topography looked good as a duplicate to Spindletop.⁶⁶

⁶⁰Heywood, "Autobiography," *Op.* I, 2 (March 1941), 28.

⁶¹*Ibid.*, 34.

⁶²Oil men of the Gulf Coast used several phenomena to guide them in their search for oil. Seeps of oil, gas, and sulphur water, especially if found in association with a slight elevation or hill, were believed to indicate the presence of a salt dome or anticline around which oil accumulated.

⁶³New Orleans, *Ivan-Tribune*, March 14, 1937, p. 7.

⁶⁴*Ibid.*

⁶⁵Heywood, "Autobiography," *I*, 5 (June, 1941), 22.

⁶⁶*Ibid.*

On April 29, 1901, a contract was signed between S.A. Spencer and Company and Scott Heywood authorizing the latter to form the Jennings Oil Company. The contract authorized the Jennings Company to choose any forty acres of the land leased by the Spencer group and proceed to drill two wells, each to a depth of 1000 feet. Upon completion of these wells, Spencer and Company would turn over half of their land holdings to the new firm.⁸⁷

The location of the first Jennings Company well was in the middle of a rice field on the property of Jules Clement, which had been leased by Spencer and Company and was situated about six miles northeast of the town of Jennings. At first Clement refused to allow workmen on his land, contending that his cattle would break their legs in the holes left by the wells. After some time he was persuaded that this would not happen because the holes would be filled and plugged when the drilling was completed. His next objection was that he would not know what to do with the oil if it were found. Heywood assured him that the oil would be disposed of quickly and efficiently and that if any of his rice was ruined he would be reimbursed for his loss. Clement finally relented and work was begun.⁸⁸

The first well reached one thousand feet but showed only a slight trace of oil. Encouraged nevertheless by the presence of oil, both Spencer Oil and the Jennings Company agreed to continue drilling in the same well for another thousand feet rather than begin a second one thousand foot well. This decision proved to be a wise one. At seventeen hundred feet drillers encountered an oil sand that proved to be over one hundred feet thick. On the morning of September 21, 1901, Jennings Oil Company's Well No. 1, after a thunderous roar, began spouting a column of crude oil and large quantities of sand high into the air above the oil derrick. Scott Heywood later recalled the event:

While the well was gushing into the air, I looked over and noticed Jules Clement standing on a rice levee. I called out to the boys. "There's Clement! Let's get him and duck him." It took the whole five of us to get him over to the well, but we did that very thing. We made him stand in the stream of oil with us, showering and soaking him with crude petroleum, just as I had promised him I would do.⁸⁹

Prior to the discovery, Scott Heywood had been pointed out on the streets of Jennings as the "crazy guy that is drilling for oil in a rice field." Now he became known as a great industrial pioneer and a leading citizen.⁹⁰

The discovery well, after spouting oil and sand spasmodically for approximately seven hours, became clogged with sand. At first no one was greatly bothered by the clogging. It was common knowledge among oil men that many of the wells of Texas and California "sanded up soon after the initial flow of oil had begun. Generally several bailings or "flushings" would start the flow again.⁹¹ But the Jennings Company's well, as the Heywoods and others soon learned, was different. No way could be found to filter the uncommonly fine sand particles interfering with the flow of oil in the well. For nearly a month the Heywoods fought unsuccessfully to control the sand within the oil well. Finally, after a string of pipe became stuck in the sand, the well was abandoned

⁸⁷*Ibid.*

⁸⁸*New Orleans Item-Tribune*, March 14, 1937, pp. 7, 51.

⁸⁹Heywood, "Autobiography," I, 5 (June, 1941), 23.

⁹⁰*Ibid.*

⁹¹*Ibid.*

In the meantime a number of local oil concerns had organized and started drilling operations in the vicinity of the discovery well; but the larger oil companies, many of which had their headquarters in Beaumont, hesitated to enter the area until a method could be devised to cope successfully with the sand.⁹²

Fortunately for Jennings' oilmen, a method was devised to prevent their oil wells from "sanding up." When all known methods of combatting the sand had failed, Scott Heywood hit upon the idea of installing in oil wells a screen, similar to that used in water wells for filtering out fine particles. After consulting with his brothers, Heywood decided to let the Southern Oil Company, a competitor, test the screen on their No. 3 well, located within a short distance of the Jennings Company's abandoned well and at the time nearing completion. Southern agreed to the proposal, and with the screen installed the well produced about seven thousand barrels of oil per day. Now the petroleum resources of the Jennings area could be successfully tapped. It had taken nearly eight months from the initial discovery to insure that the oil field would be productive.⁹³

With the sand problem out of the way, oilmen converged on the Jennings area. As a result, Louisiana experienced its first oil boom. In *The Birth of Jennings* Walter Morse described what happened:

From that time the development spread like "wild fire." The land was leased and sub-leased to many operators and drilling competition was keen. The Heywoods had five drilling rigs running day and night and at least twenty other operators were in the field including several out-of-state companies. In the course of a few months there was a forest of derricks and it was a mad rush for each operator to get his oil before his near neighbor drained it from under his lease.⁹⁴

At the time of the oil discovery Jennings was a small agricultural community of about fifteen hundred people. The architectural design of its buildings resembled those of many small communities of similar size throughout the nation. The *Oil Investor's Journal* described its people as "thrifty and many of them well-to-do." The town itself was separated from the oil field by Bayou Nezpique, a branch of the Mermentau River. Located in Calcasieu Parish along the main line of the Southern Pacific railroad, Jennings was in the heart of the richest rice-growing country in Louisiana.⁹⁵

Following the discovery of oil, Jennings experienced an orderly "oil boom." Most oilmen interested in the field visited Jennings by day but returned on the evening train to Beaumont. Few people were seen on the streets at night. Jennings was known as a "temperance town." During the day the pace of activity stepped up as speculators and prospectors crowded the streets in order to "get in on the ground floor of opportunity."⁹⁶ Pictures of oil gushers decorated every store window and the local press used its largest type to tell about any new oil discoveries.⁹⁷

⁹²Walter D. Morse, *The Birth of Jennings and Jennings Firsts* (Privately printed), p. 86

⁹³*Ibid.*

⁹⁴*Ibid.*, p. 88

⁹⁵*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 2 (June 7, 1902), 1-3.

⁹⁶Carl Coke Rister, *Oil! Titan of the Southwest* (Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1949), p. 73.

⁹⁷*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 2 (June 7, 1902), 1-3.

By the summer of 1902 the newly organized Commercial Club of Jennings, a promotional organization, was guaranteeing that "enterprises of various natures" were heading for the town.⁹⁸

A shanty town named Evangeline sprang up close to the oil field.⁹⁹ Most of its occupants were men employed as workers at the oil field.¹⁰⁰ Scott Heywood described the town as consisting of "saloons, dance halls, honkey-tonks, gambling houses, restaurants and . . . all classes of people, with fights, murders and everything that usually goes on in a boom [town] . . ." He recalled one incident in which a pipeline crew attempted under cover of night to lay a line over land on which the right of way had been refused. They were driven off the property by men armed with hammers, stones, clubs, and chain tongs. The confrontation, in Heywood's words, resembled a clash of "one mob against another."¹⁰¹

As production increased and new discoveries were made, Jennings' oilmen took a number of steps which helped to eliminate the waste of oil and to establish harmony among the various operators with interest in the oil field. Storage facilities, including two 37,000 barrel steel tanks and two 50,000 barrel earthen reservoirs, were installed to accommodate part of the oil being produced which could not be immediately disposed of. By the summer of 1902, a well-constructed four inch pipeline was completed from the oil field to the Southern Pacific railroad terminal. Besides these facilities, the twenty-five barges and six boats which the Heywood Brothers operated on the nearby Mermentau River were capable of handling large quantities of oil.¹⁰² Finally, Jennings' producers agreed among themselves to respect a working line that would keep drillers titty feet apart. The "working line," they believed, would prevent fires, once started, from spreading throughout the oil field and deter unscrupulous individuals or oil companies from siphoning off the petroleum reserves of their competitors. The Heywoods worked hard to secure this agreement because of their familiarity with Spindletop, where a person could without touching the ground walk from one derrick floor to the next virtually across the whole oil field.¹⁰³

Much of the oil produced at Jennings was sold as fuel to manufacturing and industrial concerns throughout most of South Louisiana and Southeast Texas. Jennings oil was of a slightly better grade than that produced at Spindletop.¹⁰⁴ Both, however, compared unfavorably with the oil produced in other parts of the country. Large quantities of sulphur and asphalt in the crude oil tended to restrict the yield of high-value products such as kerosene, thus confining the use of the oil primarily to fuel. Fortunately for those concerned the process of converting Jennings and Spindletop crude into fuel oil required little or no capital investment in refineries. Crude petroleum could be made into fuel oil simply by leaving it exposed to the air until its more volatile portions evaporated.¹⁰⁵ This partially explains why Gulf Coast oilmen were able to remain

⁹⁸Fisher, *Oil*, p. 73.

⁹⁹Morse, *Birth of Jennings*, p. 88.

¹⁰⁰Author's interview of Alva Heywood, March 28, 1970, Jennings, Louisiana.

¹⁰¹Heywood, "Autobiography," *Oil* 1, 6 (July 1941), 22.

¹⁰²Gerald Forbes, "Jennings, First Louisiana Salt Dome Pool," *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, XXIX, 2 (April, 1946), 496-497.

¹⁰³Fisher, *Oil*, p. 62.

¹⁰⁴*Oil Investor's Journal* 1, 2 (June 7, 1907), 3.

¹⁰⁵Harold F. Williamson et al., *The American Petroleum Industry: The Age of Energy, 1889-1959*, II (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1963), pp. 74-78.

independent of the giant Standard Oil complex which at the time dominated the American petroleum industry through its virtual monopoly of the nation's oil-refining business.¹⁰⁶

To the delight and surprise of many producers, the market for Jennings oil expanded almost as quickly as production mounted. Serious competition between Jennings and Beaumont was prevented by a twenty-four cent per barrel freight charge placed by the railroads on Beaumont oil bound for Jennings. The price of the Louisiana product fluctuated between forty and fifty cents per barrel.¹⁰⁷ Local consumption alone was phenomenal. Farmers within a thirty-mile radius of Jennings made purchases averaging about one thousand barrels of oil per day.¹⁰⁸ Rice farmers, the principal local users, purchased large amounts of fuel oil to use in their rice irrigation plants. Southwest Louisiana sugar mills, coastal factories, riverboats, and railroads also used Jennings oil.¹⁰⁹ During the years 1901 and 1902, Louisiana and Texas were listed among the principal markets in the world for oil-burning equipment and by the end of 1902 demand for fuel oil in the two states had unexpectedly exceeded supply.¹¹⁰

Jennings, like Spindletop, was typical of the petroleum fields around salt domes. Below the oil field lay a roughly cylindrical mass of rock salt which had been pushed upward from a great depth and which had pierced the normally horizontal subsurface strata. The dome, situated about two thousand feet below the surface, was approximately one mile across and elliptical in shape. At the top of the salt was a layer of "cap rock" which varied in thickness from several to over one thousand feet. For nearly two decades following the initial discovery, oil produced at the field came from the shallow oil sands on top of the salt and cap rock.¹¹¹

By the end of 1902 oil prospectors had begun to show considerable interest in several other areas of Southwest Louisiana besides Jennings as prospective oil-producing regions. Particular attention, therefore, was given to the oil and gas seeps near Anse la Butte, Bayou Bouillon, Vinton, and Welsh, where geological formations seemed almost identical to those of Spindletop and Jennings.

Exploitation of the Anse la Butte region, located about forty miles east of Jennings, had begun in 1893 when a local inhabitant named Paul Ledanois, with the aid of a machinist, had drilled a well there. At fifty feet Ledanois encountered difficulties of an unknown origin which forced him to abandon the undertaking.¹¹² In 1899-1900 Anthony F. Lucas sought unsuccessfully to exploit the petroleum resources of that same area. Early in the fall of 1901, C.Z.F. Caracristi, a geologist hired by the Anse la Butte Oil and Mineral Company, urged his employers to develop what he considered valuable deposits of petroleum, natural gas, and salt located there. According to Caracristi, the natural gas prospects alone were worth consideration:

¹⁰⁶Standard had been able to dominate the United States petroleum industry primarily through its control of the refining business. See *ibid.*, II, 4-14.

¹⁰⁷*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 1 (May 24, 1902), 3.

¹⁰⁸*ibid.*, I, 4 (July 5, 1902), 1.

¹⁰⁹*Forbes*, "First Louisiana Salt Dome," 499.

¹¹⁰*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 16 (January 1, 1903), 1.

¹¹¹Fred W. Bates and Robert R. Copeland, "The Jennings Field," *Oil*, XI, 6 (September, 1951), 25. Not all of the oil produced in Louisiana and Texas came from around salt domes. Several places in Texas, including Corsicana, and much of North Louisiana, yet to be discovered, produced definite geological strata underlying the surface. It was characteristic of these fields to extend for many miles, as far as the strata would allow. However, it was rare for oil to be found outside a mile's radius of a salt dome.

¹¹²Miscellaneous clippings, Grover Rees Collection, SAMC.

I feel justified in stating that by drilling of six wells, . . . you would be able to have a minimum supply of natural gas of 5,000,000 cubic feet each twenty-four hours, equal to 166 tons of best coal. This will be more than sufficient for all the purposes of operating your plant, and leave, approximately 2,000,000 cubic feet of gas for sale; valued for fuel and other purposes at Lafayette, at 25 cents per 1000 cubic feet, or \$500 per day. The cost of piping the gas into the town through a four inch pipe would be about \$15,000, not counting the cost of a gasometer in the town proper.¹¹³

Immediately after Caracristi delivered his report, the Moresi Brothers of Jeanerette, Louisiana, began drilling for oil on the "Lucas tract" of land at Anse la Butte which was now owned by the Guffey Oil Company of Beaumont.¹¹⁴ The drillers encountered oil-bearing strata at three different depths in their first well but were unable to obtain any oil.¹¹⁵

According to the *Oil Investor's Journal*, not long after the Moresis began drilling their second well, the Heywood brothers announced, through the press, their purchase of the "choicest property" at Anse la Butte.¹¹⁶ Drilling on their No. 1 well commenced north of a swampy area where gas emanations were most prominent. Although the driller struck a good stratum of oil at eleven hundred and seventy feet, he continued boring to a greater depth. When Scott Heywood arrived to inspect the work, he ordered the workers to "set pipe" where the oil sand was first encountered. When this was done the well began producing at the rate of about 150 barrels of oil per day.¹¹⁷

Among those interested in developing the petroleum resources of Anse la Butte was the Southern Pacific railroad. Southern Pacific was among the first to secure leases there. At the time, the railroad was in the process of converting its engines from coal to fuel oil users. Southern Pacific consumed an estimated 2200 barrels of fuel oil per day and expected this figure to rise in the very near future to perhaps 10,000 barrels. Keeping this in mind, officials of the railroad hoped that the company could start producing its own oil.¹¹⁸

Sugar refiners throughout Southwest Louisiana were elated with the oil strike at Anse la Butte because Jennings and Spindletop operators were having difficulty in meeting their demands for fuel oil. Previously they had been compelled to purchase huge quantities of coal shipped by barge all the way from Pittsburgh. But the oil supply from Anse la Butte, they hoped, would solve their fuel problems.¹¹⁹

The town of Breaux Bridge, only two miles east of the Anse la Butte oil field, offered to construct, at its own expense, a pipeline from the field to Bayou Teche, which flowed through the heart of the sugar country. This brought an outcry from citizens of nearby Lafayette, who accused

¹¹³Miscellaneous clippings, Lake B. Grow Collection, SAMC.

¹¹⁴G. D. Harris, "Oil and Gas in Louisiana," United States Geological Survey, Bulletin 429 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910), p. 35; hereafter USGS. In partial return for financial backing for his famous Spindletop well, the Guffey Oil Company, which later became Gulf Oil Corporation, had absorbed all the Lucas leases at Anse la Butte. See *Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 3 (June 21, 1902), 1.

¹¹⁵Cyril K. Moresi, "The Anse la Butte Oil Field," *Oil*, I, 2 (March, 1941), 40.

¹¹⁶*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 2 (June 7, 1902), 3.

¹¹⁷Henry V. Howe and Cyril K. Moresi, "Geology of Lafayette and St. Martin Parishes," Louisiana Geological Survey, Bulletin No. 3 (Louisiana Department of Conservation, 1933), pp. 53-54.

¹¹⁸*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 15 (December 15, 1902), 1, and I, 6 (August 1, 1902), 6.

¹¹⁹*Ibid.*, I, 15 (December 15, 1902), 1-3.

their neighbors of trying to monopolize the area's petroleum business.¹²⁰ In an editorial entitled "About that Oil Field Pie," which appeared in the *Breaux Bridge Valley of the Teche*, assurances were given the people of Lafayette that their neighbors had every intention of sharing the prize with them:

Hold on there, good people of Lafayette, we are perfectly willing to give you a slice of the Oil Field Pie. . . . Even if the pipeline won't bring you the slice we'll find some other conveyance to take it to you. You have been watching it as it is being baked, and why should we not give our good sister a good slice of it? . . . Everybody knows that the Moresi and Heywood wells are just a little over two miles from Breaux Bridge. Then, if you keep on claiming to be nearer to the same wells than you really are, the neighbors will think you are trying to make them believe that these wells are several miles in diameter. . . .¹²¹

Many Southwest Louisianians were shocked by rumors that the Standard Oil Company had gained control of the Anse la Butte oil field. In December, 1902, the *Houston Post* reported that the "trust" had purchased "large tracts of oil land" in the area and that it had "secured control of the well drilled at that place by the Heywood Bros." The Heywoods officially denied the report.¹²² Standard probably was not interested enough in the oil field to undertake any clandestine activity to gain control of it. Standard Oil, in fact, had a negligible role in the early development of the Gulf Coast petroleum industry. The trust failed to gain a foothold in that region's booming fuel oil business. According to one authority on the organization's history, this was due in part to "administrative fatigue" caused by the rapid expansion of the company during the preceding two decades, and because "its whole system was occupied with . . . traditional product lines, particularly illuminants. As a result, Independent operators like Gulf Oil and Texaco in Texas and the Heywoods in Southwest Louisiana consolidated their positions in the fuel oil business and eventually expanded into other branches of the industry. By 1911 Standard Oil's competitors supplied nearly seventy per cent of the fuel oil, some forty-five per cent of the lubricants, approximately thirty-three per cent of the gasoline and waxes, and twenty-five per cent of the kerosene distributed in the domestic industry."¹²³

Another area which attracted considerable attention following the Jennings discovery was Bayou Bouillon, located about twenty miles northeast of Breaux Bridge. In 1902, George Knight and E.A. Davis noted numerous bubbles of gas escaping from the water in an area extending for more than a mile across the Atchafalaya River. After learning that similar gas bubbles led to the discovery of the Beaumont oil field, they, together with several other men, leased a large amount of land in the vicinity of the seepages. Shortly thereafter, two oil companies began drilling in the area. The Heywood Brothers constructed a drilling rig on the east bank of the Atchafalaya; and the ACME Supply Company occupied the west bank.¹²⁴ Because the region was inaccessible except by boat, supplies were ferried up the river via Morgan City.¹²⁵ Of the four wells drilled prior

¹²⁰The town of Lafayette is located about 7 miles southwest of Breaux Bridge.

¹²¹*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 8 (September 1, 1902), 2.

¹²²*Ibid.*, I, 15 (December 15, 1902), 2.

¹²³Williamson, et al., *The American Petroleum Industry*, II, 1-14.

¹²⁴David Donoghue, "The Bayou Bouillon Salt Dome, St. Martin Parish, Louisiana," *American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Bulletin IX*, 9 (December, 1925), 1283; hereafter cited as *AAPG*.

¹²⁵*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 4 (July 5, 1902), 5.

to 1903, three yielded no oil and the fourth, the Heywood No. 2 well, produced only a few buckets of petroleum.¹²⁶

Because of its close proximity to Spindletop, a well was begun near Vinton, Louisiana, only four months after Anthony Lucas brought in his famous gusher.¹²⁷ The first well struck no oil or gas. A second well drilled shortly afterward reached oil at twenty-six feet. Prospectors then drilled a number of other wells to the same depth. These wells were pumped with an ordinary "water-well pitcher pump." Each well produced about fifteen barrels of dark, heavy oil daily which was sold to the local saw mills.¹²⁸

In 1903, a gas blowout in a well at Welsh, Louisiana, located approximately twenty miles southwest of Jennings, pushed land prices in the area up to \$1500 per acre. Oilmen turned their attention to this region in the hopes that the considerable quantities of gas escaping from a slight elevation or hill might indicate a salt dome.¹²⁹ The Welsh Oil and Development Company was the first to drill. Its No. 1 well struck an oil sand at about one thousand feet. Several other wells followed, the successful ones producing between three and four hundred barrels of oil daily from the same depth. In nearly every well considerable gas and salt water in amounts "greater than that of the oil itself," accompanied the oil to the surface.¹³⁰ Most of the oil was used by the Welsh refinery and the Southern Pacific railroad.¹³¹ Since it was entirely free of sulphur, Welsh oil commanded a higher price than any other Louisiana oil.¹³² It generally sold for \$.75 to \$1.00 a barrel, almost double the price of other Louisiana crude.¹³³

Numerous other attempts to find oil in Southwest Louisiana were made prior to 1903. Prospectors drilled for oil near Lake Charles, Franklin, Charenton, Sulphur, Hackberry Island, Crowley, Edgerly and several other parts of the "lower Louisiana coast." According to the United States Geological Survey, considerable drilling activity near Lake Charles was undertaken "without commercial success."¹³⁴ At Crowley, oilmen prospected west of the city, where they hoped to find a river or "trend" of oil which they believed extended from the Beaumont oil field.¹³⁵ Although little evidence exists relating to their activity, it is possible that they discovered traces or even small quantities of petroleum. If is clear, however, that they did not find oil or gas in sufficient quantities to be of commercial use.¹³⁶

¹²⁶Harris, "Oil and Gas in Louisiana," USGS, Bulletin 429, 41-42.

¹²⁷Vinton is located about 40 miles east of Beaumont.

¹²⁸S. A. Thompson and O. H. Eichlberger, "Vinton Salt Dome, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana," AAPG, Bulletin XII, 4 (January-December, 1928), 386.

¹²⁹Forbes, "First Louisiana Salt Dome," LHQ, XXIX, 497; see also Lyman C. Reed, "The Welsh, Louisiana, Oil Field," AAPG, Bulletin IX, 3 (January-December, 1925), 465.

¹³⁰N. M. Fenneman, "Oil Fields of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coastal Plain," USGS, Bulletin 282 (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1906), p. 105.

¹³¹Harris, "Oil and Gas in Louisiana, USGS, Bulletin 429, p. 105.

¹³²United States Geological Survey, *Mineral Resources of the United States, 1905* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1906), p. 872.

¹³³Harris, "Oil and Gas in Louisiana," USGS, Bulletin 429, p. 105.

¹³⁴C. W. Hayes and William Kennedy, "Oil Fields of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Plain," USGS, Bulletin 212 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903), pp. 131-137.

¹³⁵Crowley Daily Signal, October 4, 1937, p. 1.

¹³⁶Hayes and Kennedy, "Oil Fields," USGS, Bulletin 212, p. 137.

Most of the drilling for oil in Southwest Louisiana and the Gulf Coast was done with rotary equipment. The rotary method consisted of a rotating vertical rod through which a continuous stream of water was forced downward. The drilling rod was held by a cable extending from the top of a derrick and guided by a driller by means of a feeding device. Attached to the bottom of the drill pipe were different kinds of bits, depending upon the type of material being drilled into. As the bit made its way into the earth, the particles loosened by it were carried upward by water which, having been forced through the pipe, then made its way back to the surface. The water kept the hole clean and as a result the drill rod was able to turn freely. To prevent a well from caving, a common occurrence in the unconsolidated formations of the Gulf Coast, mud or fine clay was mixed with the water forced into the pipe. This served to seal the loose material forming the walls of the hole. Due to the general softness of the geological formations of Southwest Louisiana, most wells were relatively easy to drill. The price charged for drilling an oil well averaged between \$4.00 and \$4.50 per foot.¹³⁷

By the end of 1902 Louisiana producing 500,000 barrels of petroleum in a short span of eight months had become the eighth largest oil producing state in the nation and the second largest in the South. Still, the oil output in Louisiana fell far behind that of Texas which had reached a high of 18,083,658 barrels during the year.¹³⁸ Oilmen continued to focus most of their attention on Jennings, where virtually all of the state's oil was produced. But according to the *Oil Investor's Journal*, the people of Beaumont were amazed to learn that oil was being located and produced at Jennings in an area larger than at Spindletop. Even experienced oil men speculated that in the near future the petroleum industry in Louisiana would surpass that of her sister state of Texas.¹³⁹

CHAPTER III

DEVELOPMENT AND DECLINE OF THE SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA: 1903-1907

For nearly a decade following the discovery of oil near Jennings in 1901, Southwest Louisiana retained its position as the leading oil producing region in the state. By 1907 total output from the several oil fields of that region reached a peak of more than 22,000,000 barrels of petroleum, nearly all of which came from Jennings. In contrast to Jennings the Anse la Butte, Vinton, and Welsh oil fields combined turned out over this period slightly more than 129,000 barrels of oil.¹⁴⁰ Between 1907-1910, Jennings oil production began a steady decline. As the other Southwest Louisiana oil fields showed no signs of significantly increasing their petroleum output, oilmen shifted their attention to the prolific new Caddo oil field in the northwestern part of the state.¹⁴¹

¹³⁷*Ibid.*, p. 166.

¹³⁸*Mineral Resources, 1912, Part II, Nonmetals*, pp. 366-367.

¹³⁹*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 3 (June 21, 1902), 1-3.

¹⁴⁰United States Geological Survey, *Mineral Resources of the United States, 1905, Part II, Nonmetals* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1906), 873. (Hereinafter cited as *Mineral Resources*).

¹⁴¹J. A. Shaw, "Annual Report. Mineral Division of the State Conservation Department, Year 1932," *Louisiana Conservation Review*, III, 3 (1933), 7.

The story of the oil industry in Southwest Louisiana prior to 1910 is synonymous with the growth and development of the Jennings field, which accounted for more than ninety per cent of the region's total oil output. By 1903 the Jennings oil field reportedly began operating on a paying basis. According to the *Oil Investor's Journal*, "the initial heavy development expense has been stood and the field is figuratively 'getting on velvet.'"¹⁴² Production during the year reached a high of 892,609 barrels of oil, nearly twice the amount in 1902. Before the year ended, oilmen had erected a refinery and completed a six-inch pipeline to the town of Mermentau located about six miles southeast of Jennings.¹⁴³ The Crowley Oil Company also began building a smaller four inch pipeline to Eunice, which when completed the following year gave Jennings operators an additional outlet for their product.¹⁴⁴ Depending on the amount and place of purchase, Jennings oil sold for an average of \$.45 per barrel.¹⁴⁵

Southwest Louisiana oilmen faced a serious challenge during 1903 when demand for their petroleum, particularly fuel oil, began to exceed supply. The growing demand occurred as manufacturing and industrial plant owners throughout Louisiana continued their rapid conversion to fuel oil burning equipment. Unable to secure enough oil in Louisiana, consumers turned to Spindletop to supply their needs. But the Beaumont field, after a severe decline in production in 1903, could no longer supply these growing demands. As a result, many of the Louisiana establishments, including a number of sugar and rice mills, were forced to reconvert from oil to coal-burning machinery.¹⁴⁶

Louisiana and Texas oil producers, viewing the growing shortage problem as a threat to the Gulf Coast petroleum industry, stepped up their prospecting activities. A flurry of drilling activity followed in Louisiana and Texas.¹⁴⁷ In Louisiana oilmen sought particularly to further explore the Jennings area. At Welsh, prospectors and "wildcatters" swarmed about despite the large quantities of salt water that continued to appear in the wells there. Anse la Butte received the least attention from oil operators at this time, but a small amount of drilling activity there was reported.¹⁴⁸

The focal point of the Louisiana petroleum industry again in 1904 was Jennings where production during that year mounted to almost 3,000,000 barrels. The great increase over the previous year's total resulted largely from the development of new territory beyond the proven limits of the oil field.¹⁴⁹ Two new gushers accounted for over half of the field's oil production. The flow of the Wilkins No. 2 well was an estimated 1,000 barrels of oil per hour. Within five months of its discovery the well had yielded 1,386,105 barrels of oil. The other great producer, the Bass and Benckenstien No. 1, returned 1,280,000 barrels in less than four months. Commenting on the

¹⁴²*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 16 (January 1, 1903), 2.

¹⁴³G.D. Harris, "Oil and Gas in Louisiana," United States Geological Survey, *Bulletin 429* (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1910), 54. (Hereafter cited as *Bulletin 429*.)

¹⁴⁴*Oil Investor's Journal*, I, 16 (January 1, 1903), 2. Eunice is located about fifteen miles northeast of Jennings.

¹⁴⁵*Ibid.*, I, 1 (May 24, 1902), 3.

¹⁴⁶*Ibid.*, II, 13 (December 1, 1903), 3.

¹⁴⁷*Ibid.*, I, 16 (January 1, 1903), 1.

¹⁴⁸*Ibid.*, I, 20 (March 1, 1903), 8-9.

¹⁴⁹*Bulletin 429*, 58.

phenomenal production, one observer described it as the most spectacular showing "ever made . . . on this continent by an oil well."¹³⁰

At Welsh production reached a high of 35,892 barrels of oil in 1904, slightly in excess of the needs of the local market. Exploratory drilling in that area failed to yield any significant new production. At Anse la Butte, total output for the years 1903 and 1904 was disappointingly small, slightly exceeding 4,000 barrels of oil.¹³¹ Still more discouraging to oilmen was a legal decision rendered in 1904 forcing closure of a large portion of the Vinton oil field to further development. Litigation involving property titles to nearly six thousand acres of land that surrounded the oil field delayed the full development of that area for six years.¹³²

TABLE 1

Production of petroleum in Louisiana, 1902-1904, by months

[Barrels]

Month	1902	1903	1904
January.....		46,560	35,242
February.....		65,108	37,720
March.....		82,900	37,446
April.....		83,725	66,239
May.....	25,000	75,279	88,152
June.....	60,000	97,137	86,585
July.....	75,000	95,473	82,356
August.....	92,894	78,017	341,282
September.....	68,723	67,345	521,191
October.....	81,257	66,630	530,502
November.....	70,707	63,994	557,565
December.....	75,036	95,603	574,678
Total...	548,617	917,771	2,958,958 ¹³³

During 1905 oil production in Louisiana continued to increase substantially, reaching a new high of 8,910,416 barrels. Of the total amount produced that year all but 17,000 barrels came

¹³⁰Gerald Forbes, "Jennings, First Louisiana Salt Dome Pool," *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, XXIX, 2 (April, 1946), 500.

¹³¹*Mineral Resources*, 873.

¹³²S.A. Thompson and O.H. Eichelberger, "Vinton Salt Dome, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana," *American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Bulletin* XII, 4 (January-December, 1928), 386. (Hereinafter cited as AAPG).

¹³³The statistical information used in the tables in this chapter can be located in the United States Geological Survey, *Mineral Resources of the United States, 1905, 1907, 1910, and 1912, Part II Nonmetals* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office).

from Jennings. The output of Welsh, continuing to rank behind Jennings as the state's second largest producing oil field, averaged between seventy and eighty barrels of oil per day. Several test wells drilled at Bayou Bouillon prior to 1906 failed to find oil deposits predicted by a number of experts. The small amounts of oil taken from the Vinton field were still considered too insignificant to be tabulated.¹⁵⁴ At Anse la Butte prior to 1905, only two wells, both belonging to the Heywood Brothers, could be listed as producers. Both wells were "pumped with air" and yielded a sufficient amount of oil to "supply fuel for drilling operations and to supply the local demand."¹⁵⁵ In 1905 at Anse la Butte the Heywoods finished their No. 7 well daily production of which ran to about one hundred barrels. The Lake Oil Company also completed two wells good for two hundred barrels each.¹⁵⁶

TABLE 2
Production and Value of petroleum in
Louisiana, 1902-1905, by fields

	Jennings		Welsh		Anse la Butte	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value Year	Quantity	Value
1902	548,617	\$188,985	25, 162	\$25,162		
1903	892,604	1,049,144	35,892	24,450		
1904	8,891,416	1,589,825	10,000	7,500	9,000	\$4,000

Because Jennings lacked the necessary facilities to handle the rapidly increasing output of petroleum, well owners used large earthen reservoirs for storage. Compared to the more desirable steel storage tanks, ground reservoirs were relatively inexpensive to construct and in most cases had a considerably greater capacity. But the danger involved in keeping large amounts of petroleum in open storage became apparent in August when a fire swept through part of the field and threatened to destroy much of the years' production. Four wells burned causing damages estimated at \$20,000.¹⁵⁷ Facing the possibility of ruin, many well owners took steps to guard against further outbreaks of this kind. By December producers had fenced and cleared most of the land surrounding the earthen reservoirs, and had installed an electric lighting system and a network of telephones. As another preventive measure, they erected a large tower from which watchmen maintained twenty-four hour surveillance.¹⁵⁸

By 1905 Jennings was rapidly becoming the Gulf Coast's leading oil field, the *Oil Investor's Journal* describing it the "Jumbo of the Texas-Louisiana oil region."¹⁵⁹ Unlike most of the large

¹⁵⁴ *Mineral Resources*, 1905, 873.

¹⁵⁵ *Oil Investor's Journal*, IV, 13 (December 3, 1905), 6.

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, III, 58 (September 1, 1904), 4.

¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, III, 63 (November 1, 1904), 3; W. Scott Heywood, "Autobiography of an Oil Man," *Oil*, I, 22.

¹⁵⁹ *Oil Investor's Journal*, III, 67 (January 1, 1906), 4.

Texas fields which had produced immense quantities of oil for one or two years then undergone a rapid decline, the Jennings field each year exceeded the previous year's production total. It boasted both the largest producing and the deepest well in the entire Gulf Coast territory. In 1905 it yielded about 70,000 barrels of oil per day. In January, 1906, Jennings established a record for the largest shipment of oil made in a single month from a Gulf Coast oil field. One observer remarked that because of Jennings' immense productivity, "wildcatting" in Louisiana had reached a new peak.¹⁰⁹

A major improvement in the Jennings transportation network took place in March 1905, following the completion of the Carnes, Bass and Benckenstein pipeline to the Atchafalaya River. The new four-inch pipeline, the only Jennings outlet that did not connect with the Southern Pacific railroad, was—over fifty miles long and had a monthly carrying capacity of approximately 180,000 barrels of oil. The pipeline opened up a new Market defined by the *Oil Investor's Journal* as "the country adjacent to the lower Mississippi River, and the cities on account and towns along the river which have been denied oil—of prohibitive freight rates."¹¹⁰ Even with this new facility, oil continued to accumulate in Jennings' storage tanks. By January 1906, more than 6,500,000 barrels of oil were on hand at the field.¹¹²

TABLE 3

Average monthly price of crude petroleum per barrel at wells
in the Jennings oil field in 1904 and 1905

Month	1904	1905
January.....	\$0.30	\$0.15 - \$0.20
February.....	.30	.15 - .20
March.....	.40	.15 - .22
April.....	.40 - \$0.50	.12 - .22
May.....	.46 - .50	.12 - .22
June.....	.50 - .52	.12 - .20
July.....	.45 - .57	.12 - .20
August.....	.40 - .50	.16 - .20
September.....	.30 - .44	.18 - .20
October.....	.30 - .46	.18 - .43
November.....	.22 - .35	.20 - .25
December.....	.18 - .33	.20 - .27
Average...	\$.3589	\$.1788

¹⁰⁹*Ibid.*, IV, 18 (January 3, 1906), 12; III, 73 (April 31 1905), 11.

¹¹⁰*Ibid.*, IV, 2 (June 18, 1905), 4

¹¹²*Mineral Resources*, 1906, 873.

During 1906, Louisiana oil fields yielded 9,077,528 barrels of petroleum, the largest output recorded in the state up to that time. Consistent with its previous record, Jennings maintained a substantial lead over other Louisiana fields, turning out 9,025,174 barrels of oil.¹⁴³ Production in the field rose considerably following the installation of a giant air compressor plant. The new facility helped replenish the steadily diminishing pressure that forced the oil from the reservoir up to the surface. With the compressor installed, many oil wells which had previously stopped flowing began to produce again.¹⁴⁴ At Welsh a small refinery was built by the Rio Bravo Oil Company. Local industry, particularly rice farmers, consumed much of the output of the field. At Anse la Butte the discovery of several small producing wells encouraged construction of a pipeline to Bayou Teche. By December 1906, Anse la Butte had a total of seven producing oil wells yielding an average of 175 barrels of petroleum every day, and had replaced Welsh as the state's second largest producing oil field.¹⁴⁵

TABLE 4
Production of petroleum in Louisiana in 1906
and 1907, by months, in barrels

Month	1906		1907	
	<u>Jennings</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Jennings</u>	<u>Other</u>
January	701,357	2,830	578,705	10,495
February	676,066	2,830	427,791	6,674
March	743,197	2,830	373,802	7,061
April	702,469	2,830	286,465	8,312
May	1,074,917	4,092	246,066	5,896
June	1,000,854	7,763	222,260	5,700
July	719,353	4,069	357,348	7,684
August	835,465	3,935	457,679	11,529
September	699,051	4,763	416,562	11,830
October	744,778	3,218	318,845	7,834
November	614,242	4,759	575,343	11,951
December	513,425	81435	635,032	9,350
Total	9,025,174	52,354	4,895,905	104,316

The attention of oilmen in Southwest Louisiana shifted to Anse la Butte in 1907 following what seemed to be a major new discovery. On November 14, driller Lake B. Grow brought in the

¹⁴³*Ibid.*, 1907, 405.

¹⁴⁴*Oil Investor's Journal*, V, 15 (January 3, 1907), 5.

¹⁴⁵*Ibid.*, V, 11 (November 3, 1906), 14; *Mineral Resources*, 1907, 405.

field's first gusher, which flowed at the rate of about 4,000 barrels of oil per day.¹⁴⁴ The discovery well, believed by many prospectors to be the "first to tap the true pay [oil sand]" initiated a boom which attracted oilmen from throughout the Gulf Coast region to Anse la Butte. Jubilantly the *Oil Investor's Journal* commended Lake Grow for a job well done:

Lake Grow is getting into the spotlight with both feet. The *Picayune* of New Orleans printed a good picture of him last week, designating him as "Rockefeller." The photographer got Lake with his overalls on and reading the *Picayune* —of course. Everybody is glad to see Grow making a stake. He hung on to the Anse long enough to deserve all that he gets.¹⁴⁷

In less than a month following Grow's discovery all of the land close to the gusher had been leased, and a number of new wells started. A machine shop and a supply house were constructed to facilitate drilling. The Southern Pacific railroad also began a "motor car service" between the town of Lafayette and Anse la Butte.¹⁴⁸

In spite of the prospects for new production at Anse la Butte, several developments in 1907 foreshadowed the decline of the petroleum industry in Southwest Louisiana. Near the end of the year the Jennings oil field, for the first time since its discovery, failed to show a production gain over the previous year. Total output from Jennings in 1907 amounted to 4,895,905 barrels of oil, slightly more than half the production of the previous year.¹⁴⁹ As production declined at Jennings, many Southwest Louisiana producers began to look with interest on the newly discovered oil field in the northwestern part of the state. Still more ominous was the salt water menace which plagued operators at Jennings, Anse la Butte and Welsh, indicating that the three oil fields might be "drying up." At Jennings the situation was particularly acute. During 1907 the Jennings field produced more than twice as much salt water as oil.¹⁵⁰ Finally, prospectors failed to make any new oil discoveries in Southwest Louisiana to compensate for the diminishing output.¹⁵¹

The fears of Jennings operators were relieved somewhat when oil production rose by about 300,000 barrels in the following year. The output of Anse la Butte in 1908 reached a high of 145,805 barrels of oil. Yet the Anse la Butte field proved to be the biggest disappointment of the year to oilmen. Of the many wells drilled there following the Lake Oil Company's discovery, only one, the Lake Oil No. 9 well, was productive. The remaining wells yielded nothing but salt water. In July the *Oil Investor's Journal* reported that "after tests had been drilled . . . in all directions except the southeast without finding anything but [salt] water," Anse la Butte was "pretty generally condemned."¹⁵² At Welsh production declined considerably in 1908, when only 30,000 barrels of oil were produced.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁴ *Mineral Resources*, 1907, 405.

¹⁴⁵ *Oil Investor's Journal*, VI, 13 (December 3, 1907), 2.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, VI, 14 (December 19, 1907), 1.

¹⁴⁷ *Mineral Resources*, 1907, 405.

¹⁴⁸ *Oil Investor's Journal*, V, 23 (May 5, 1907), 25.

¹⁴⁹ *Mineral Resources*, 1907, 405.

¹⁵⁰ *Oil Investor's Journal*, VII, 3 (July 6, 1908), 2.

¹⁵¹ *Mineral Resources*, 1910, 410.

TABLE 5

Number of wells completed in Southwest Louisiana,
1906-1910, by Districts

District	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Jennings	71	76	142	51	22
Welsh	2	1	0	2	5
Anse la Butte	10	4	16	9	4
Vinton	0	0	0	0	11

The decline in Southwest Louisiana petroleum production to slightly over 2,000,000 barrels of oil in 1909 seemingly foretold an impending disaster for the petroleum industry in that region.¹⁷⁴ However, prospects brightened somewhat in 1910 following a new oil strike at Vinton. Within several months production at this field mounted to more than 25,000 barrels. Experienced producers hoped that Vinton would become another Jennings, and prospectors and other operators poured into the region. The *Oil Investor's Journal* described the boom in the town of Vinton:

Buildings are stringing up, stores have been opened, restaurants and hotels are doing the proverbial land-office business and there is a constant stream of teams going between the field and the town, presenting by far the busiest oil field in the Gulf Coast district.¹⁷⁵

In the following years increased production made Vinton one of Southwest Louisiana's most productive oil fields.¹⁷⁶ But even with the added production from Vinton, Southwest Louisiana was unable to maintain the lead in production over the northern part of the state. In 1910, the Caddo oil field in northwestern Louisiana produced more than twice the amount of oil yielded by all of the Southwest Louisiana fields combined.¹⁷⁷

In 1910 the outlook for the petroleum industry in Southwest Louisiana was indeed dim. Jennings was described as "quieter at the present than at any other period of the field's history."¹⁷⁸ Production there dropped to a low of 1,625,159 barrels of oil at the end of the year. About one-fourth of the output had to be used as fuel for machinery in the field. According to the *Oil Investor's Journal*, linearly all of the good production at Jennings . . . [was] secured with compressed air.¹⁷⁹ Elsewhere in Southwest Louisiana, prospectors and wildcaters failed to

¹⁷⁴*Ibid.*, 1912, 446.

¹⁷⁵*Oil Investor's Journal*, IX, 32 (January 12, 1911), 20.

¹⁷⁶*Mineral Resources*, 1912, 448.

¹⁷⁷*Ibid.*, 1910, 410.

¹⁷⁸*Oil Investor's Journal*, IX, 27 (December 15, 1910), 14.

¹⁷⁹*Ibid.*, VII, 17 (February 6, 1909), 16.

locate any more salt dome oil fields to compensate for the decline in production. Nor did production at Welsh and Anse la Butte increase significantly.¹⁰⁰

TABLE 6
Production of petroleum in Southwest Louisiana,
1906-1910, by districts, in barrels

Year	Jennings	Welsh	Anse la Butte	Vinton
1906	9,025,174	23,996	25,000	
1907	4,842,520	47,316	60,385	
1908	5,111,577	31,555	145,805	
1909	1,966,614	26,169	37,930	
1910	1,625,159	54,724	44,018	26,701

Petroleum was a major part of the economy of Southwest Louisiana between 1901-1911. During its developmental stages, 1901-1903, when the oil industry had yet begun operating on a paying basis, speculators and others spent hundreds of thousands of dollars leasing lands and securing drilling rights. Between 1906-1908, as oil production reached a peak, millions of dollars in revenue flowed into Southwest Louisiana giving rise to a new era of prosperity for that region as well as for the state. An account of the production of oil during 1901-1911, however, does not in itself complete the story of the petroleum industry in Southwest Louisiana. Equally important factors such as labor, organization and regulation of the industry and competition, were also instrumental in shaping the industry in the early period of its growth.

Evidence shows that most of the laborers employed in the Southwest Louisiana oil fields were natives of the area. Locally organized oil companies generally recruited their labor force from the towns and countryside of the surrounding region. Out-of-state firms frequently brought with them their own trained crews of workmen. French was the spoken language in the areas surrounding Jennings, Vinton, Welsh, and Anse la Butte and was commonly used by most oilmen, many of whom were French-speaking Southwest Louisianians.¹⁰¹ With the exception of one location, Anse la Butte, most of the laboring force was white. As a rule blacks played a negligible role in Southwest Louisiana's developing petroleum industry. When they were employed, blacks generally performed the menial tasks in and about the oil fields, including ditch-digging, maintenance, and minor construction jobs. Occasionally, a black laborer might advance to the position of helper on a rig.¹⁰²

At Anse la Butte, however, owners employed a large number of blacks and frequently advanced them to the position of "driller," a job generally reserved for experts. One authority noted that "on the wells drilled by local people in 1901, 1902, and 1903 negro drillers and helpers were the rule."¹⁰³ The blacks reportedly spoke the native "gumbo" or Acadian French dialect used

¹⁰⁰ *Mineral Resources*, 1910, 410.

¹⁰¹ Author's interview with Fred Gerwick, July 8, 1969, Lafayette, Louisiana.

¹⁰² *Oil Investor's Journal*, VI, 13 (December 5, 1907), 2.

¹⁰³ *Ibid*

throughout the area. But in spite of their ability to function competently as an oil field worker, stories deriding their courage in times of danger and expressing typical white prejudices, circulated freely throughout the Gulf Coast.¹⁴⁴

Several attempts to mold the Southwest Louisiana petroleum industry into an effective organization for protection against intrusions by such forces as organized labor, state regulation and outside competition prior to 1911 met with failure. Southwest Louisiana oilmen, like most of their fellows elsewhere, were extremely individualistic and trowed on organization or combination of any type, exceptionally in times of dire need. At Jennings, for example, cooperation among producers was limited to an agreement respecting a fifty foot "working line" and adherence to fire prevention measures. Besides, price depressing overproduction and schemes to limit output, which forced other oilmen throughout the nation to organize in order to insure themselves of protection, did not apply to Southwest Louisiana where supply rarely exceeded demand.¹⁴⁵

In 1908, however, competition from the oil producing regions of Oklahoma nearly forced Southwest Louisiana oilmen into the Gulf Coast Oil Producers' Association. The Gulf Coast Association had been formed in Texas in 1907 for the purpose of combatting oil field strikes. By 1908, oilmen hoped to enlarge the scope of the Association's activity to include educational work among "former and prospective fuel oil users," and to preserve the market for their oil. Subsequently, as markets continued to shrink, and the railroads threatened to lower the rates on oil shipped from Oklahoma to the Gulf Coast, some oilmen proposed establishing a strong organization that would combat any unjust legislation affecting the industry, enlarge the market for crude oil, and enlighten lawmakers and the consuming public in the "affairs of the industry." Undoubtedly a powerful Gulf Coast oilman's association seemed suspect to both the public and many independent-minded producers, especially at a time when the nation, influenced by the ideas of progressivism, seemed bent on destroying virtually all forms of large scale organization. Because the idea of a large and powerful Gulf Coast Oil Producer's Association failed to gain enough support, it was eventually dropped.¹⁴⁶

Louisiana oil producers enjoyed almost complete freedom from regulatory state legislation prior to 1910. Not until 1906 did the state government impose any control on the industry. The General Assembly, aroused, during the year, by a national outcry brought on by the enormous waste of natural gas in the North Louisiana oil fields, enacted the first of a series of conservation laws pertaining to the petroleum industry. Act Number 71 of 1906 made it a criminal offense for an owner to allow a gas well to remain out of control or to burn or "blow wastefully into the air." The law further stipulated that in the event an owner refused to close or "cap" a well after being ordered to do so, the governor "shall order the board of State Engineers to take charge of such work." The law did not affect Southwest Louisiana because there were no gas wells in that part of the state.¹⁴⁷

In July, 1907, the legislature enacted a second law affecting Southwest Louisiana producers. The legislation made pipelines common carriers and granted them the right to expropriate

¹⁴⁴Ibid.

¹⁴⁵Forbes, "First Salt Dome Pool," *LHQ*, XXIX, 496-509.

¹⁴⁶*Oil Investor's Journal*, VII, 1 (June 3, 1908), 10, 24.

¹⁴⁷Cyril K. Moresi, "Conservation of Louisiana's Mineral Resources, 1906-1918," *Louisiana Conservation Review*, III, 4 (October, 1933), 22.

property for right-of-way. It stipulated that "all pipe lines carrying oil from one point in the state to another point in the state, for a consideration," were to be placed under the control of the Railroad Commission of Louisiana. As part of its regulatory power the Commission was allowed to "adopt, change or make reasonable and just charges or regulations to govern and regulate all pipe lines in . . . [the] state." As a result, Southwest Louisiana pipelines became subject to state regulatory authority. With the exception of these regulations, Louisiana oilmen were free to operate as they saw fit.¹⁰⁸

Rumors that Standard Oil controlled Southwest Louisiana oil fields circulated freely throughout the state between 1903-1911. Many of these stories originated in northern newspapers and were reprinted in the local press, which usually made little attempt to verify them. The *Galveston News*, for example, noted in the summer of 1904 that Standard Oil had gained control of Jennings and was not afraid to "come out in the open with the facts." Needless to say, news of this type generated fear among citizens and oilmen in the southwestern part of the state. Representatives of Standard Oil and the Jennings' oil firms denied the allegations.¹⁰⁹ The *Oil Investor's Journal*, the most reputable petroleum journal in the Gulf southwest, dismissed the rumors as "rot".¹¹⁰ In later years, historians having full access to the files and records of the Standard Oil Company presented conclusive evidence showing that the trust had no significant influence on the Southwest Louisiana petroleum industry during its early years of development.¹¹¹

In 1909, however, Standard Oil secured large lease holdings in North Louisiana oil fields, constructed a large oil refinery at Baton Rouge, and made an aggressive bid for the state's refined and fuel oil business.¹¹² By August, Standard Oil had succeeded in making a number of important fuel oil contracts in southwest Louisiana. Particularly important was an agreement signed with the Union Sulphur Company of Sulphur, Louisiana, the largest consumer, after railroads, of fuel oil in the South. This big industrial plant, which had previously purchased fuel oil from Jennings, consumed an estimated 100,000 barrels per month. By 1910, it seems, Standard Oil had become a factor for Southwest Louisiana oil producers to reckon with.¹¹³

Unfamiliarity with and distrust of scientific methods for locating oil reservoirs, an attitude displayed by most Southwest Louisiana oilmen, may have contributed to the decline of the industry. During the decade following the birth of the Southwest Louisiana industry, most oilmen paid little heed to the science of geology or any other scientific means for locating oil or gas. Geologists were usually looked upon with suspicion if not distrust. The *Oil Investor's Journal* pointed out that "as a rule oil and gas operators do not consider a personal knowledge of geology or the opinion of an expert geologist of much value in determining locations for test wells. . . . If the surface indications suit him and the roll of the land looks good . . . the average oilman will go ahead on his own hunch."¹¹⁴

Probably the most important development affecting the future of the Southwest Louisiana petroleum industry prior to 1910 was the discovery of oil in North Louisiana. This event occurred

¹⁰⁸*Oil Investor's Journal*, V, 5 (August 3, 1906), 11.

¹⁰⁹*Ibid.*, III, 52 (June 1, 1904), 3.

¹¹⁰*Ibid.*, I, 17 (January 15, 1903), 1-2.

¹¹¹Williamson, *American Petroleum Industry*, 12-17.

¹¹²*Oil Investor's Journal*, VIII, 15 (June 6, 1910), 22.

¹¹³*Ibid.*, VII, 5 (August 6, 1909), 3.

¹¹⁴*Ibid.*, VII, 12 (November 20, 1908), 18.

in the spring of 1906. On March 28, the drilling firm of Savage Brothers and Associates struck oil in Caddo Parish in the northwestern part of the state. Following the discovery, oil prospectors moved quickly into the area, leased extensive acreages, and began drilling. By the end of the year Caddo had two producing oil wells and eleven gas wells.¹⁹⁶ Production mounted rapidly to 50,000 barrels of oil in 1907, and totaled 499,937 barrels in 1908. Output from the Caddo field reached 1,028,818 barrels of oil in 1909, making it the second largest producing field in the state. Further drilling in that region in 1910 expanded production to 5,090,793 barrels of oil or more than twice the amount turned out by all Southwest Louisiana oil fields combined.¹⁹⁷

As Jennings continued to decline and the other southwestern fields showed no signs of significantly increasing their output, oilmen shifted their attention to the northwestern part of the state where they concentrated their interest for the next twenty-two years. Not until 1932, would the focus of the Louisiana petroleum industry again shift from North Louisiana to both the southwestern and southeastern parts of the state.¹⁹⁷

¹⁹⁶Gerald Forbes, "History of Caddo Oil and Gas Field," *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, XXIX, 1 (January, 1946), 60.

¹⁹⁷*Mineral Resources*, 1910, 410.

¹⁹⁷Shaw, "Annual Report," *LCR*, III, 7.

AN ATTAKAPAS VIGNETTE FOR 1785

by
Winston De Ville

The following letter, addressed to Spanish Governor Estevan Miró, is found in Papeles Procedentes de Cuba, General Archives of the Indies, Seville, legajo 198-A, fo. 252; microfilm, Alexandria Historical and Genealogical Library.

It is unfortunate that we know so little about the incident related in the letter. Baptiste was punished for having *imposé* à the governor, which we translate here as "deceived;" he was apparently a bold slave.

We do learn that the Attakapas jurisdiction had no jail-house at this time. Such prisons were apparently not of high priority, for the first one known at neighboring Opelousas was not built until the late 1790s.¹

This letter, then, is presented merely as a footnote for the history of Attakapas Post, which we hope that a qualified historian will one day give us. A definitive history of the post cannot be written without thorough use of the archives in which this letter is found.

The letter, originally in French, follows:

My Governor,

Upon the arrival of the Negro Baptiste, carrier of your last [message], he received 25 whiplashes for having deceived Your Lordship.

[He] is one of the bad slaves of this post, receiver of stolen goods, and protector of similar escaped [slaves]. I had him put in irons (for lack of a prison) in order to deliver him to his master, [but] he succeeded, during the night, in breaking them [and escaping]. I do not yet know the route he would have taken. If he reappears, his master, although too good [to slaves], will take other precautions.

I have the honor to be with respect, My Governor,

Your very humble and
Very obedient servant,
Le Chev[alier] De Clouet²

[At] Attakapas

18 December 1785

¹Winston De Ville, *Opelousas: The History of a French and Spanish Military Post in America, 1716-1803* (new ed., Ville Platte, La., 1986), p. 19.

²Alexandre de Clouet, a Picard, was born in 1716, and served France in numerous European conflicts before arriving in Louisiana in 1758. He entered Spanish service as captain in 1768. Death occurred in 1789. *Ibid.*, pp. 24-26. His replacement as commandant at Opelousas Post was not Villebeuvre, as stated by Dorothy R. Selby in his biography, Glenn R. Conrad, ed., *A Dictionary of Louisiana Biography* (2 vols., New Orleans, 1988) Vol. I, pp. 224-225, but Nicolas Forstall, as local records amply demonstrate, and Forstall's service record makes clear. Papeles Procedentes de Cuba, legajo 161-A.

GERHARD HERMAN SOMMER OF HOLLAND AND LAFAYETTE

by
Pearl Mary Sequira

According to the military passport issued to Geert Harm Sommer by his commanding officer, he was granted a furlough from August 16, 1881, to September 19, 1881. It further stated that he had been born on January 14, 1856 in Dalen, Province of Drenthe, Holland, the son of Jan Hendrik Sommer and Anna Marie Lammers, and that his last domicile was Dalen. He was described as having an oval face, high forehead, brown eyes, ordinary nose, round chin, and being 1 meter, 6 decim., 1 cent., 2 millem. in height. He was granted the furlough in view of military service on May 7, 1878 as a replacement for Galtjo Van Kamp, Draft Group 1879 Town of Smilde, Province of Drenthe, Holland the 30th of September 1879. It was pointed out that he was obligated to enlist for the Service of sharpshooter. Geert Harm signed his name "G. H. Sommer."¹

Perhaps it was on this furlough that he met Maria Helena Wilkens who lived in Germany, Lindloh, near Hebelemeer in the Meppen area just across the border from Holand, (the Netherlands). She was born November 24, 1859, in Lindloh, Germany, the daughter of Johan Herman Wilkens and Maria Helena Hilling. They were married in 1883, and it was then that Geert Harm became known, to Maria Helena and others in Germany and Louisiana, by the German equivalent, Gerhard Herman.

The young couple made their home in the small village of Compascuum, Netherlands, very close to the German border and northeast of Emmen, the county seat of the Province of Drenthe, Netherlands, where all the records of the births of their first four children are to be found and in which province Geert Harm spent his entire life until 1891.

Two children were born in Compascuum, today known as Emmer-Compascuum: Maria Helena Sommer, later called Lena May, b. August 16, 1884, and Anna Margaretha Sommer, later called Maggie and Margaret, b. November 6, 1886.

In their birth records Gerhard Herman's occupation is listed as "workman," without specifying what type. Drenthe is one of the least densely populated provinces of the Netherlands in the northeast section bordering on Germany. Its chief occupations are stock raising and dairy farming.² "Agricultural conditions are very poor in the eastern provinces because of glacial deposits consisting of sands, gravels and clays; because of insufficient drainage of many moors, and because of a harsher climate caused by the greater distance from the sea."³ Perhaps this

¹ This article was prepared with the generous help of Rev. Charles Zaunbrecher of Mobile, Alabama, and of Mr. Robert Carl Damler, Jr., of Walnut Creek, California (Examining Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco).

² *Passport Koninkrijk Der Nederlanden*. (Military passport issued to Geert Harm Sommer (Gerhard Herman Sommer) in the town of Smilde, Province of Drenthe, Netherlands, September 30, 1879. This passport is now in the possession of Mr. Ralph Wilfred Landry of Lafayette. Geert Harm's grandson. Translated from the Dutch language by Rev. John DeLoeuw, retired pastor of St. Leo the Great Catholic Church of Lafayette and native of Tilburg, Netherlands, birthplace of Msgr. William J. Teurlings, long-time pastor of St. John Cathedral and St. Genevieve Catholic Church of Lafayette, La.

³ *The Large Type Columbia-Viking Desk Encyclopedia*, Third Edition, 1968, p. 1181.

⁴ *Collier's Encyclopedia*, 1988, Vol. 17, p. 314.

Here were born Johan Heinrich Sommer (Henry John Sommers), October 6, 1888, and Maria Catharina Sommer, April 28, 1890.

Meanwhile Prussia's iron chancellor, Otto von Bismarck had fought, between 1864 and 1871, three Wars of German Unification. Military conscription, the *Kulturkampf* (the political battle fought between Bismarck and Germany's Catholics in the 1880's culminating in a series of anti-Catholic measures referred to as the "May Laws" which deprived Catholics of both civil and religious liberties) and the influence of German-born Father Peter Leonhard Thevis (then stationed in New Orleans since 1867) led many Germans to emigrate to Louisiana where they settled near Rayne, in an area called Robert's Cove. The emigration extended from the beginning of 1880 until the early 1900's.⁴

Although Gerhard Herman and Maria Helena were not directly affected by these events, indirectly they were. Maria Helena's brother, Bernard Heinrich Wilkens, whose first wife, Anna Helena Albers, had died, emigrated in 1884 to Louisiana with his four children, Anna Helena, Mary Gesina, John Gerhard and Frank Joseph (who was two years old at the time). Possibly thinking they could fare better, Gerhard Sommer and Maria Helena Wilkens, Bernard Heinrich's sister, decided to join him in Lafayette seven years later, arriving with their four children in October 1891 when Johan Hendrik was three years old and Maria Catharina was eighteen months old.

There they settled down on a truck farm north of Lafayette, roughly bordered by two roads which later became West University Avenue and Scott Road (Cameron Street) not far from the present-day Huval Baking Company.

One day while chopping wood for the wood stove, a splinter flew into Gerhard Herman's right eye, which caused him to lose the sight in that eye.

On April 18, 1896, at the age of 40, in a document signed by H. C. Wallis, he petitioned the 17th Judicial Court of Louisiana in and for Lafayette Parish for naturalization stating "that it is his Bona-fide intention to become a citizen of the United States of America, and that he renounces all allegiance to any and all foreign power, prince and potentate, and particularly to the Kingdom of Holland of which he was lately a subject; and he prays that he may be received as a citizen of America." The document is signed "G. H. Somers" it erroneously states that he arrived in Louisiana at the age of 40. He was then 35 years old.⁵

In the years which followed, four more children were born: Mary (Maria) Josephine, b. September 24, 1893; Leonce (Leon, Lee), b. March 7, 1896; Anna Elizabeth (Klitsa, Betty), b. December 5, 1897; and Alfred Sommers, b. March 7, 1900.⁶

After the children had grown, married and left home and after enjoying life in lush Louisiana, his adopted state, for 43 years, Geert Harm Sommer, now known as Gerhard Herman Sommers, died at his home on May 28, 1934 in Lafayette, which had a population of 2,106 when he had arrived in 1891 and at the time of his death was a thriving city of 14,635.⁷

His faithful wife, Maria Helena, followed ten years later on August 27, 1944.

⁴Rainhart, Kondert, *From Gellenkirchen to Acadia Parish, A History of the Germans of Roberts Cove, 1880-1987* (Lafayette, La., The Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1988), p. 2-3, 74-75.

⁵Naturalization record, folio 131, Lafayette Parish Court House, Lafayette, Louisiana; Hebert, Rev. Donald J., *Immigration Files of Southwest Louisiana (1840-1929) Naturalization Records, Mer, La., July 1770, p. 149.*

⁶Rev. Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, Vol. 24, p. 366 (Sommers, Josephine Mary), Vol. 27, p. 490, (Sommer, Leon); Vol. 28, p. 452 (Sommer, Anna Elisabeth); Vol. 31, p. 495, (Sommer, Alfred).

⁷Louisiana Almanac, 1988, p. 141.

SOMMERS GENEALOGY

- I. Jan Hendrik Sommer of Dalen, Holland (Netherlands), m. Anna Maria Lammers
 - A. Geert Harm Sommer (Gerhard Herman Sommers)
- II. Geert Harm Sommer (Gerhard Herman Sommers), b. Jan. 14, 1856 (on military passport) Jan. 6, 1856 (on tombstone) in Dalen, County of Emmen, Province of Drenthe, Holland (Netherlands); d. May 28, 1934, Lafayette, La., USA, age 78 years, 5 mths; m. 1883 Maria Helena (Lena) Wilkens, b. Nov. 24, 1859 in Lindloh, Emsland, Germany, just across the border from Holland; d. Aug. 27, 1944, Lafayette, La., USA, at age 84 yrs., 9mths, 5 days, d/o Johann Hermann Wilkens and Maria Helena Hilling
 - A. Maria Helena (Lena May) Sommer(s), b. Aug. 16, 1884 in Compascuum, Holland (Netherlands); d. Mar. 13, 1903 in Lafayette, LA, USA, bur. in the Protestant Cemetery of that city; m. May 29, 1901 in Lafayette, LA, (Lat. Ch.: v. 7, p. 259) Oliver (Ollie) Perry Heterick (Hebrick), s/o Benjamin Franklin Heterick, and Anna Elizabeth Tricart
 1. One Son
 - B. Anna Margaretha (Maggie), Margaret Sommer(s); b. Nov. 6, 1886 in Compascuum, Holland (Netherlands), County of Emmen, province of Drenthe; d. May 11, 1928 in Lafayette, LA, USA; m. October 19, 1908 (Lat. Ch. #8184) John Elias Lindstrom in Lafayette, LA, b. Oct. 16, 1886 Grand Chenier, LA; d. Feb. 18, 1960, Lafayette, LA, s/o Victor Lindstorm, native of Stockholm, Sweden and _____ Dolan of Grand Chenier, LA
 1. Margaret Lemirl Lindstorm, b. July 21, 1914, Lafayette, La.; d. June 1983 in Baton Rouge, La.; m. (1) 1936? in Lafayette, La., Marcel John Landry, b. Mar. 27, 1912, Lafayette, La.; d. July 28, 1958 in Baton Rouge, La., disinterred and reburied in Lafayette, La., s/o Albert A. Landry and Madel Rees; m. (2) No issue.
 - a. Virginia Lemirl (Virgie Lee) landry, b. Sept. 12, 1937 in Baton Rouge, La., m. _____ Nicosia
 - (1) Johnny Dean Nicosia
 - (2) Darnell Lemirl Nicosia
 - (3) Tony Michael Nicosia
 - (4) April Cecil Nicosia
 - (5) Swayne Paul Nicosia
 - b. John Albert Landry, b. Dec. 7, 1938 in Baton Rouge, La.
 - (1) Tonya Lynn Landry
 - (2) Cheryl Ann Landry
 - (3) John Albert Landry, Jr.
 - c. Deanna Margaret Landry, b. Dec. 6, 1945, m. _____ Parker
 - (1) Chad Adam Parker
 - d. Paul Marcel Landry, b. Dec. 18, 1948
 - (1) Paul Marcel Landry, II
 - (2) Kelly D'Shea Landry
 2. Dorothy Lindstorm, b. Dec. 2, 1920 in Lafayette, La.; m. Cattery Domingue, b. July 22, 1915 in Scott, La., d. 1984 in ; m. Feb. 4, 1939 in Lafayette, La.

- a. Dorothy Louise Domingue, b. Nov. 26, 1939; in Lafayette, La.; m. June 27, 1959 in St. Anne Church in Youngsville, La., Harry Joseph Champagne, b. Mar. 26, 1933 in Baton Rouge, La.; d. Feb. 8, 1979
 - (1) Diana Lynn Champagne, b. Nov. 5, 1960 in Baton Rouge, La.
 - (2) Raymond John Champagne, b. Mar. 6, 1962 in Baton Rouge, La.
 - (3) Jennifer Louise Champagne, b. May 28, 1963 in Baton Rouge, La.
 - (4) Mark Joseph Champagne, b. Sept. 23, 1964 in Baton Rouge, La.
 - (5) Elizabeth Anne Champgne, b. June 21, 1968 in Baton Rouge, La.
- b. Marilyn Anne Domingue, b. June 27, 1943; m. July 31, 1965 in St. Anne Church, Youngsville, La., Curtis Lazard Vice, b. Nov. 23, 1924 in Lafayette, La., d. Sept. 24, 1978

- (1) David Charles Vice, b. Mar. 24, 1967, Lafayette, La.

- (2) Laurie Ann Vice, b. June 5, 1970, Lafayette, La.

- c. Susan Carol Domingue, b. Nov. 5, 1946 in Lafayette, La.; m. Dec. 16, 1967 in St. Anne Church, Youngsville, La., Ronald James Albarado, b. Oct. 23, 1946, Lafayette, La.

- (1) Michael Jude Albarado, b. Feb. 12, 1969 in Lafayette, La.

- d. Barbara Linda Domingue, b. Sept. 11, 1949; m. (1) George Lewis; Divorced; m. (2) May 14, 1977 in St. Anne Church, Youngsville, La., Michael Hinson
- (1) Thomas Caffery Hinson, b. Nov. 8, 1978 in Lafayette, La.

- e. Virginia Ellen Domingue, b. Nov. 12, 1953 in Lafayette, La.

C. Johan Heinrich Sommer (Henry John Sommers), b. October 6, 1888 in Zwartemeer, county of Emmen, province of Drenthe, Holland (Netherlands); d. October 16, 1945 in Lafayette, La.; m. October 30, 1909 (Laf. Ch.: v. 8, #113) Marie Juana (Jéna, Jane) Gutierrez, b. April 25, 1890 (Abbeville Ch.: v. 5, p. 358) in Erath, La., d/o Joseph Gutierrez and Lezima Trahan; d. Sunday, Dec. 4, 1983 in Lake Charles, La. (St. Margaret Church).

- 1. George Sommers, b. April 23, 1910, bt. May 14, 1910 (Laf. Ch.: v. 11, p. 132); d. May 4, 1942 at sea on the *Joseph M. Cudahy* and oil company tanker
- 2. Hazel Marie Sommers, b. Dec. 19, 1911 (Laf. Ch.: v. 11, p. 205); d. Dec. 10, 1986, in Lake Charles, La., donated her body to science, Memorial Service at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Dec. 12, 1986; m. December 19, 1911 by Justice of the Peace in Pineville, La., in the Methodist Church, Gilbert Paul Hannen, b. Dec. 23, 1892, in Colsmeneil, Texas; d. Aug. 6, 1969, in Lake Charles, La., son of Patrick Cornelius Hannen, b. 1864, d. 1893 or 1893 and May Spencer

- a. Gilbert Paul Hannen, II, b. Jan. 2, 1934 in New Iberia, La.; m. 1954 Dorothy Jane Simon, d/o Donnevill Simon and Elita Plaisance of Crowley, La.
 - (1) Donald Brent Patrick Hannen, b. Jan. 15, 1955 in Crowley, La.
 - (2) Paula Jane Hannen, b. May 15, 1956 in Fort Knox, Kentucky; m. Kenneth Abshire

- (a) Justin Keith Abshire, b. Sept. 9, 1984 in Lake Charles, La.

- (b) Eric Abshire, b. Sept. 1989, in Lake Charles, La.

- (3) Kellie Lynn Hannen, b. Feb. 27, 1959; m. (1) Everett Cox, June 18, 1977 in Littleton, Colorado

- (a) Brian Michael Cox, b. Dec. 20, 1978, in Lincoln, Nebraska

- m. (2) Aug. 15, 1987 Randall Charles Onxley in Lake Charles, La.

(b) Cody Charles Orxley, b. Jan. 15, 1990 in Lake Charles, La.

(4) Kevin Paul Hannen, b. Jan. 19, 1961

D. Maria Catharina Sommer, b. April 28, 1890 in Zwartemeer, county of Emmen, province of Drenthe, Holland (Netherlands); d. Dec. 11, 1966 in Houston, Texas; m. Jan. 28, 1910 (Laf. Ch.: v. 8, p. 129) Wilfred Henry Landry, b. Jan. 8, 1890 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 157); d. Aug. 14, 1947, in Lafayette, La., s/o Omer Landry and Peronella Langlinals

1. Ralph (Raphael) Wilfred Landry, b. Aug. 28, 1911 in Lafayette, La.; m. Nov. 11, 1934 in Olla, La. (Marriage certificate recorded in St. Martin Parish) Martha Eva Aucoin, b. July 5, 1908, d/o Joseph Aucoin and Palmyre Comeaux; d. Sept. 4, 1990

a. Ronald Wilfred Landry, b. Mar. 5, 1945; m. (1) Sept. 22, 1968, Maureen Kimbrough, b. Dec. 8, 1947 or 1948, d/o Mel Kimbrough and Corita Moss, Divorced; m. (2) Nov. 17, 1989 Eileen Simoneaux

(1) Brian Christopher Landry, b. Aug. 1, 1976 (adopted)

2. Wilbert Harold (Bubby) Landry, b. Aug. 26, 1913, in Lafayette, La.; m. Dec. 28, 1955 in Brooklyn, NY, Helga Pugscher, b. Feb. 23, 1916 in Germany

a. Werner Landry, born of Helga and her first husband in Bremerhaven, Germany, took his stepfather's name, but was never adopted, because his German father would not consent

E. Mary (Maria) Josephine Sommer(s), b. Sept. 24, 1893 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 256); d. Sept. 18, 1939 in Lafayette, La.; m. July 7, 1913 (Laf. Ch.: v. 8, p. 196) Andrew Martin, b. Sept. 8, 1886; d. Feb. 28, 1948

1. Anna Lois Martin, b. Oct. 15, 1924 in Lafayette, La.; m. March 16, 1947, Lee Sonnier, Jr., b. August 31, 1923, s/o Lee Sonnier, Sr., and Prisca Breaux

F. Leonce (Leon, Lee) Sommer (s), b. Mar. 7, 1896 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 316); d. June 24, 1930? in Port Arthur, Texas; m. Nov. 4, 1916 in Port Arthur, Texas, Emma Marie Malin, b. Mar. 17, 1898 in Cottonport, La.

1. Emma Lee Frances Sommers, b. Aug. 14, 1917, in Port Arthur, Texas; d. Austin, Texas; m. Franklin Emerson Miller, Sr., d. Austin, Texas

a. Franklin Emerson Miller, Jr., b. April 15, _____ in Austin, Texas

b. Edward Lee Miller, b. in Austin, Texas

c. Larry Miller, b. in Austin, Texas

2. Otis Warren Sommers, b. July 6, 1919 in Port Arthur, Texas; m. Doris Jane Secrest in Port Arthur, Texas

a. Cheryl Ann Sommers, b. Aug. 21, 1946 in Port Arthur, Texas

b. Michael Lee Sommers, b. Oct. 14, 1948 in Port Arthur, Texas

c. Teresa Marie Sommers, b. Dec. 12, 1950 in Port Arthur, Texas

G. Anna Elizabeth (Klitsa, Betty) Sommer(s), b. Dec. 5, 1897 (Laf. Ch.: v. 10, p. 6); d. May 22, 1960 in Lafayette, La.; m. Joseph Leonce Breaux, b. Sept. 8, 1891 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 170); d. Dec. 30, 1974, son of Simon Breaux and Suzanne Broussard

H. Alfred (Dutch) Sommer(s), b. Mar. 7, 1900 (Laf. Ch.: v. 10, p. 110); d. June 22, 1955 in Lafayette, La.; m. June 3, 1922 Leah Blanche Schexneyder, b. Jan. 7, 1902 in Rayne, La.; d. Sept. 12, 1990 in Lafayette, La.; d/o Leodice Schexneyder and Azema Lavergne

1. Anna Lee Sommers, b. Sept. 20, 1923 (Laf.); m. Oct. 18, 1941 (Laf.), Ralph Victor

Mier, b. Mar. 11, 1920

a. Judith Lynn Mier, b. August 22, 1947; m. Oct. 26, 1968, Richard Martin LeBlanc, b. April 17, 1947

- (1) Lonny Paul LeBlanc, b. Feb. 23, 1971
- (2) Thomas Gregory LeBlanc, b. Dec. 12, 1973
- (3) Timothy Joseph LeBlanc, b. Aug. 10, 1978
- (4) Jacob Martin LeBlanc, b. June 15, 1981
- (5) Leah Clare LeBlanc, b. Mar. 7, 1983

b. Ralph Victor Mier, Jr., b. Oct. 10, 1952; m. (1) May 26, 1973 Jennifer Ann McMannus, b. April 5, 1954; Divorced; m. (2) Nancy Catherine Hawkins, b. Oct. 9, 1960

- (1) child by first wife, Jennifer Ann McMannus, Jeremy Theo Mier, b. Jan. 5, 1976

2. Elaine Cecile Sommers, b. Mar. 19, 1925; m. John Harrell Hamilton, b. April 19, 1922

a. Karen Hamilton, b. Jan. 16, 1949; m. Sept. 20, 1974, Kerry Anthony Jambon, Sr., b. June 7, 1948

- (1) Kerry Anthony Jambon, Jr., b. July 18, 1975
- (2) Kyle Michael Jambon, b. July 29, 1978
- (3) Jamie Eva Jambon, b. April 17, 1981
- (4) Todd Jude Jambon, b. Oct. 18, 1982

b. Carl Thomas Hamilton, b. Mar. 8, 1958; m. Mar. 16, 1977 Debra Lynn Menard, b. Jan. 26, 1958

- (1) Jill Ashley Hamilton, b. Oct. 12, 1977
- (2) Brad David Hamilton, b. Mar. 16, 1982

3. Nell Theresa Sommers, b. Mar. 25, 1929; m. April 10, 1948, Fay Charles Landry

a. Kathy Sherlyn Ann Landry, b. Dec. 9, 1950; m. Aug. 26, 1973, James Francis Cronin, b. Sept. 20, 1948

- (1) Kristen Agnes Cronin, b. Oct. 8, 1975
- (2) Paul Michael Cronin, b. Nov. 5, 1982
- (3) Scott Joseph Cronin, b. May 17, 1984

b. Michael Leonard Landry, b. Dec. 31, 1959; m. June 11, 1983, Shelly Beth Brown

c. Steven Jude Landry, b. Apr. 6, 1961; m. June 11, 1983 Patricia Holly Broussard, b. Dec. 6, 1963

4. Rita Georgette Sommers, b. Feb. 22, 1932; m. Sept. 7, 1957 Ernest J. Carbo, Jr., b. June 21, 1932

a. Glenn Paul Carbo, b. July 2, 1958; m. Jan. 9, 1982 Judy Bovey, b. Mar. 28, 1958

- (1) Aaron Matthew Carbo, b. Jan. 17, 1987

b. Kerry James Carbo, b. Aug. 7, 1960; m. May 21, 1984 Leslie Hebert, b. Oct. 10, 1958

- (1) Kylie Renée Carbo, b. May 23, 1986
- (2) Kelly Lynn Carbo, b. Sept. 1, 1989

c. Wynne David Carbo, b. Aug. 7, 1961

d. Kirk Alfred Carbo, b. April 12, 1963; m. Aug. 10, 1985 Kimberly Ann Peyton,

b. April 1, 1963

(1) Brynn Noelle Carbo, b. Dec. 10, 1989

5. Susan Eleanor Sommers, b. Oct. 1, 1942; m. Jan. 13, 1964 Fred C. Aultman, b. Oct. 10, 1940

a. Chad Aultman, b. Oct. 31, 1964; m. June 20, 1987 Aimée Elizabeth David, b. Sept. 23, 1964

(1) Megan Elizabeth Aultman, b. May 4, 1991

b. Heidi Ann Aultman, b. May 15, 1970

WILKENS GENEALOGY**

I. Johann Gerhard Wilkens m. (in Heede, Germany) Elisabeth Lanskrone, b. February 15, 1777 in Heede; d. May 21, 1842 in Heede; d/o Christian Landscren and Gertrud Brevel or Breuermann

II. Johann Herman Wilkens, b. Sept. 26, 1817 in Heede, Germany; d. April 27, 1882 in Lindloh, Emsland, Germany; m. Jan. 21, 1845 (in Lindloh) Anna Helena Hilling, b. March 16, 1827 in Lindloh; bt. Mar. 18, 1827 in Rutenbrock; d. June 8, 1872 in Lindloh; d/o Bernard Heinrich Hilling and Margaretha Thole(n), b. 1789 in Langen, Germany; granddaughter of Johann Bernard Hilling and Margaretha Kuhlman and Gerhard Heinrich Tholen and Gesina Summann or Sulmann (m. in Langerts)

Note: All of Johann Herman Wilkens and Anna Helena Hillings children were baptised in Rutenbrock, Germany

A. Bernard Heinrich Wilkens, b. Sept. 6, 1846 in Lindloh, Emsland, Germany; bt. Sept. 7, 1846 in Rutenbrock; d. Nov. 2, 1907 in Wesume, Emsland Germany on a visit (Laf. Ct. Hse. Succ. Jan. 14, 1908, Succ. #2589), m. (1) 1872 (in Wesume Rutenbrock, Province of Hanover, Germany) (Laf. Ct. Hse. Succ. Jan. 14, 1908, Succ. #2589) Anna Helena Albers, bc 1849 in Rutenbrock? Germany (Laf. Ch., V. 4, p. 283); d. Mar. 12, 1885 at about 36 years of age, bur. Mar. 13, 1885 (Laf. Ch. St. John: v. 4, p. 283, #21);

m. (2) May 25, 1885 (Laf. Ch.: v. 7, p. 14, #23) (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #2905) Maria Catherina Wester, b. Nov. 1, 1864, in Hebelemeer?, Emsland, Germany; d. Dec. 10, 1937 in Beaumont, Texas; d/o Johann Herman Wester and Maria Gesina Falke; granddaughter of Gerhard Heinrich Wester and Maria Katharina Gerdes, and Falke and Margaretha Wilmes; great granddaughter of Christopher Falke Lucas and A. Piggen.

CHILDREN of Bernard Heinrich Wilkens and Anna Helena Albers

1. Anna Helena Wilkens, b. 1874? in Lindloh? Hebelemeer? Germany; d. Nov. 11, 1932, age 58 years (Laf. Ch., V. 6, p. 5); m. (1) July 6, 1892 (Laf. Ch.: v. 7, p. 108), July 5, 1892 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #3894) Michael Thomas, s/o William Thomas and Mary O'Brien, d. 1894 (lost at sea); m. (2) Apr. 18, 1904, (Laf. Ch.: First Meth.: 1904, Luehart) Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #7438-Gurhart); Dec. 20, 1917, Laf. St. John (validated by church) Gerhard (George) Bunt, b. 1867

** The German information in this genealogy was supplied through the generous cooperation of Robert Carl Demler, Jr., of Walnut Creek, California, (who had done extensive research on the Wilkens, Wester and Demler families in Germany) and that of Rev. Charles Zaunbrecher of Mobile, Alabama on the Louisiana families.

Heberlemeer? Germany; d. June 27, 1930, Laf. La., St. John. No issue of this marriage.

CHILDREN of Anna Helena Wilkens and Michael Thomas

- a. Mary Helena Thomas, b. Sept. 1, 1893 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 256); d. Nov. 1, 1975, Crowley, La., St. Michael Church; m. Nov. 23, 1910, Robert Cornelius Jabusch, b. 1887; d. Aug. 2, 1972, Crowley, La., St. Michael
 - b. Katherine Ann (Catherina) Thomas, b. Oct. 9, 1894 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 292); d. Apr. 22, 1969 in Lafayette, La.; m. Jan. 17, 1917 (Laf. St. John) Oscar Lewis Ducharme
 - c. Anna Lang (adopted; never called Thomas) b. May 9, 1910 (Baton Rouge?); d. Mar. 8, 1984; m. Joseph P. Artell who d. 1972
2. Mary Gesina Wilkens, b. 1876? in Lindloh? Hebelemeer? Germany; d. 1950 in Galveston, TX, bur. in Lafayette, LA; m. Jan. 20, 1897 (Laf. Ch.: v. 7, p. 159) (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Mar. #5728) Frederic(k) Rupeter, s/o William Rupeter and Gertrude Youngston
- a. Clara Maria Rupeter, b. Dec. 18, 1897 (Laf. Ch.: v. 10, p. 14); never married
 - b. Frederic (Fred) William Rupeter, b. Apr. 17, 1899 (Laf. Ch.: v. 10, p. 80); d. after 1963 (Laf.: St. Genevieve) m. 1921 in Lafayette, La., Therese Gabrielle Delhomme, b. Sept. 23, 1906; d. Mar. 2, 1922
 - (1) Sylvia Irene Rupeter, b. June 20, 1925; d. Jan. 4, 1962; m. Peter Joseph Hanlon
 - (a) Linda Carroll Hanlon, b. Nov. 8, 1945; m. Arthur Faul Schafer
 - (2) Beverley Rupeter b. Nov. 9, 1926; d. June 18, 1991; m. Norman Thomas Wrenn, Jr.
 - (a) Sandra Wrenn; m. (1) _____; m. (2) William Devy
 - (b) Norman Thomas Wrenn, III; m. Three times
 - (c) Peter James Wrenn; m. Debra Ann Jeansonne, Oct. 19, 1981
 11. Christopher James Wrenn, b. June 25, 1986
 22. Elizabeth Ann Wrenn, b. Sept. 20, 1989
 - (3) Fred William Rupeter, Jr., b. May 20, 1930; d. Aug. 9, 1970; m. Mary Elizabeth Webb
 - (a) Randy Rupeter
 - (b) William (Billy) Rupeter
 - (4) Glenda Sue Rupeter; b. Jan. 24, 1941; m. April 12, 1956 Robert Burnette Jeansonne, b. Jan. 7, 1937; d. Mar. 13, 1991; s/o Burnette Jeansonne, b. Mar. 7, 1915 and Georgia Glen Garland, b. Mar. 20, 1913; d. June 14, 1951
 - (a) Sharon Elizabeth Jeansonne, b. Nov. 12, 1959; m. Feb. 16, 1980 Randy James Richoux, b. Mar. 18, 1957
 11. Natalie Irene Richoux, b. July 21, 1983
 22. Megan Glen Richoux, b. April 28, 1986
 - (b) Debra Ann Jeansonne, b. Oct. 19, 1961; m. May 23, 1983, Peter James Wrenn
 11. Christopher James Wrenn, b. June 25, 1986
 22. Elizabeth Ann Wrenn, b. Sept. 20, 1989
 - (c) Robert Scott Jeansonne, b. Nov. 8, 1964; m. June 6, 1986, Leslie Diane

Howe, b. June 1, 1966

11. Mallori Danielle Jeansonne, b. July 7, 1988

(d) Duane Patrick Jeansonne, b. Oct. 8, 1967

3. John Gerhard Wilkens, b. 1881? in Lindloh? Hebelemeer? Germany; d. Sept. 23?, 1955, Lafayette, La.; m. (1) June 5, 1907 (Laf. Ct. Hse. #8189), Claire Emma Micaud, b. Mar. 2, 1889 (Carencro Ch.: v. 2, p. 120); d. Aug. 26, 1932 Lafayette, La., d/o Henri Micaud and Clara Kilchrist; m. (2) Nov. 30, 1933 (St. Genevieve, Lafayette, La (Laf. Ct. Hse.: 1 Mar. #18374) Annie Dautreuil, b. June 30, 1910 near Parks (St. John) St. Martin Parish, La., d/o Louis Dautreuil and Dorciane Graouilla; d. Nov. 3, 1991

CHILDREN of John Gerhard Wilkens and Claire Emma Micaud

a. Leroy Henry Wilkens, b. Apr. 16, 1908, Lafayette, La., (St. John); m.

_____, b. 1916, Houston, Texas, d. June 18, 1964, age 48 years (St. John, Lafayette, La. Fun. v. 7, p. 38?)

CHILDREN of John Gerhard Wilkens and Annie Dautreuil

a. Mary Donna Wilkens, b. May 30, 1942 (Lafayette, La.), twin; m. (1) Charles Primeaux

(1) Kim Denise Primeaux, m. _____ Aucoin

(2) Karen Primeaux, m. _____ Fuselier

(3) Brent Primeaux (handicapped, d. at age 22)

(4) Christi Primeaux, m. (2) _____ Garrett

(5) Susan Primeaux?, m. _____ Delcambre

b. Mary Diane Wilkens, b. May 30, 1942 (Lafayette, La.); twin; m. Robert Ogan from Oklahoma; in 1991 lives in New Orleans

(1) Danny Ogan, b. in Lafayette

(2) Susan Ogan, b. in Florida

4. Joseph Frank Wilkens (Frank Joseph), b. Feb. 24, 1883, Hebelemeer, Bt. Mar. 1, 1883, Hebelemeer, Germany (Hanover on birth certificate of daughter, Mary Frances Wilkens), two years old when he arrived in Louisiana; d. Nov. 12,

1952, age 72 (St. Genevieve); Emancipation dated Dec. 23, 1902 (Laf. Ct. Hse.: Succ. #2275); m. (1) Feb. 23, 1905, Houston, Texas, Louise Poimboeuf, b. Feb. 23,

1889 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 124) d/o Jules Poimboeuf and Regina Acosta; m. (2) Jan.

16, 1932(?) Heloise Grace Whitmeyer, b. May 15, 1902 (Laf. Ch.: v. 10, p. 213); d.

Apr. 22, 1984, d/o James Whitmeyer and Heloise LeBlanc

CHILDREN of Frank Joseph Wilkens and Louise Poimboeuf

- a. Cecil Augustine (Gus) Wilkens, b. Aug. 6, 1906 in Lafayette, La., (Laf. Ch., St. John, v. 10, p. 380); d. Apr. 3, 1990 in Port Arthur, Texas; m. three times; m. (3) Suzanne (Sue) Guidry, b. Dec. 10, 1916 in Breau Bridge, La.; d. June 20, 1990 in Port Arthur, d/o Ferjus Guidry and Corinne Thibodeaux. No issue of any marriage

b. Evelyn Goldie Cecilia Wilkens, b. Feb. 9, 1909 (Laf. Ch. st. John, v. 11, p.

56); d. Oct. 21, 1967 in Lafayette, La.; m. Jan. 16, 1932 (?) James Blaine

Cotter, Sr., b. Jan. 26, 1898, bt. 1898 as an infant (Laf. Ch.: First Meth. Ch.: v. 1); d. April 11, 1980, s/o James David Cotter and Cordelia Alpha

(1) Kathleen Louise Cotter, b. Oct. 14, 1948; m. (1) Nov. 22, 1972 Wayne

Voskamp of Baytown, Texas; m. (2) 1988 or 1989 in Baytown, Harvey

Causey

(a) Adam Voskamp, b. 1975 in Baytown

(b) Sarah Voskamp, b. Aug. 1977 (?) in Baytown, Texas

CHILDREN of Frank Joseph Wilkens and Heloise Grace Whitmeyer

a. Mary Frances Wilkens, b. Feb. 14, 1933 in Lafayette, La.; m. Feb. 27, 1954

(St. Genevieve, Laf.) Robley Pierre "Shine" Domingue, b. June 8, 1929

(Laf. Ch.: St. Genevieve) s/o Valerie Domingue and Anna Verret

(1) Robley Pierre Domingue, Jr., b. Dec. 30, 1954; m. Jan. 10, 1975, Karen Breaux, b. Mar. 1, 1966, d/o Ashton Breaux, b. Nov. 12, 1912 and Denege Guilbeau, b. Aug. 26, 1911

(a) Sarah Domingue, b. Oct. 16, 1978

(b) Stephen Domingue, b. Feb. 18, 1982

(c) Seth Domingue, b. Aug. 30, 1985

(d) Scott Domingue, b. Sept. 12, 1988

(2) Gregory Stephen Domingue, Sr., b. Feb. 9, 1956; m. Theresa Nichols, b. Jan. 31, 1957, d/o Allen Nichols and Doris Martin

(a) Gregory Stephen Domingue, Jr., b. Oct. 10, 1979

(3) Charlotte Domingue, b. Oct. 28, 1957; m. May 1, 1982 Michael Villejoin, b. Oct. 16, 1951, s/o Alton Villejoin and Helen Broussard

(a) Samantha Villejoin, b. May 5, 1986

(b) Amanda Villejoin, b. June 6, 1989

(c) Jessica Villejoin, b. Oct. 29, 1990

(4) Frank Joseph Domingue

CHILDREN of Bernard Heinrich Wilkens and Maria Catherina Wester

1. Maria Wilkens, b. Nov. 2, 1885 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 38); m. Hamilton Riu

2. John Herman Wilkens, b. Sept. 20, 1887 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 82); d. Apr. 4, 1956 in Port Arthur, Texas; m. Sept. 18, 1909 (Laf. Ch.: St. John, v. 8, p. 10) Jeanne Baptistine Fuselier, b. Nov. 21, 1889 in Breaux Bridge, La.; d. Dec. 28, 1980 in Nederland, Jefferson County, Texas; m. Sept. 18, 1918 Lafayette, La.

a. Ethel May Wilkens, b. Sept. 26, 1910; d. Dec. 22, 1987; never married; no issue

b. Valerie Katherine Wilkens, b. Oct. 20, 1912; m. Frank Ward

(1) One Son

c. Raymond Russell Wilkens, b. Aug. 12, 1918; m. Vernice Wyble

(1) One Son

(2) One daughter

d. Doris Rita Wilkens, b. May 31, 1925 in Port Arthur, Texas; m. Guy Cobble Maxey

(1) One Son

(2) One daughter

3. Adolphus William Wilkens, b. Jan. 27, 1890 (Jan. 7, 1890: Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 150), d. Dec. 4, 1962 in Port Arthur, Texas; m. Aug. 3, 1915 Mayomie Blanchard in Port Arthur, Texas; b. Oct. 15, 1893 in Big Hill, Taylor's Bayou Jefferson County, Texas, d. Dec. 29, 1985, Bossier City, La., d/o Charles William

Blanchard and Emily (Emma) Zephia Berwick

a. Florence Irene Wilkens; m. _____ Reeves

- b. Jess Willard Wilkens, never married, killed in World War II
- c. Charles Harvey Wilkens, b. July 14, 1922, Port Arthur, Texas; m. Aug. 22, 1946, Port Arthur, Texas, Pauline Farris
- (1) One daughter

d. Novelin Mae Wilkens, b. Feb. 20, 1925, Port Arthur, Texas; m. Harry Miller Heffner

- (1) One Son
- (2) One daughter

4. Ernestine Gesina Wilkens, b. Jan. 12, 1892 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 210; d. June 3, 1927 in Beaumont, Texas; m. May 4, 1910 John Robert Leffage

5. Anna Helena Wilkens, b. Mar. 7, 1894 (family tradition), Mar. 8, 1894 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 268); d. Sept. 24, 1970 in Beaumont, Texas; m. May 10, 1910 in Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas, Karl Heinrich Friedrich Demler, b. Feb. 25, 1889 in Berndorf, Waldeck, Hesse, Germany; d. Apr. 17, 1954 in Beaumont, Texas; s/o Karl Friedrich Heinrich Demler and Louisa Wilhelmina

Christiana Horset; grandson of Johannes Friedrich Demler and Maria Henrietta Bangert and Maria Christina Elisabeth Fingerhut

- a. Robert Carl Demler, b. Jan. 26, 1911 in Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas; m. April 18, 1932 in Lake Charles, La.; Bessie Louis Morgan, b. Aug. 22, 1910 in Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, d/o Edward Tyson Morgan of Morton, Miss. and Mary Zephia Blanchard of Johnson Bayou, Cameron Parish, La.

- (1) Robert Carl Demler, Jr., b. Dec. 19, 1940 in Port Arthur, Texas; m. (1) Evelyn Carrie Hopkins Oct. 15, 1966; Annulment 1970; m. (2) June 5, 1971 in Sacramento, California, Carolyn Jean Dowrie, b. Nov. 25, 1943 in San Francisco, San Francisco County, California, d/o James Otis

Dowrie, M. D. and Patricia Howland Hamilton

- (a) Mary Howland Demler, b. May 19, 1974 in San Rafael, Marin County, California
- (b) Amy Otis Demler, b. July 24, 1976 in Chiswick, Hammersmith, London, England

- (2) Kyle Tyson Demler, b. Oct. 1, 1942 in Port Arthur, Texas; M. (1) Nov. 30, 1963, Elsie Ruth Martin; Divorced 1964; m. (2) May 29, 1966 (Gailya Lea Mashburn, d. Mar. 1, 1968; m. (2) Aug. 1, 1969 Adele Laraine Tanner; Divorced 1981

- (a) Lance Chapin Demler, b. Sept. 29, 1972 in Dallas, Texas
- (b) Lark Angela Demler, b. Nov. 17, 1977 in Dallas, Texas
- m. (4) July 19, 1982 Carmen Marie Mouton, d/o Dudley Joseph Mouton, Jr. b. in Lafayette, La.; and Caral Lucille Fraysse, b. in New Orleans
- (a) Clay Rivers Demler, b. July 19, 1983 in Dallas, Texas
- (b) Morgan Claire Demler, b. Sept. 7, 1984 in Dallas, Texas
- (3) William Russell Demler, b. Sept. 19, 1946 in Port Arthur, Texas; Never married

- b. Irene May Demler, b. Apt. 9, 1912 in Port Arthur, Texas; d. Dec. 20, 1985 in Port Arthur, Texas; buried Dec. 23, 1985 in Port Arthur, Texas; m. Mar. 16, 1929 in Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, Weldon Perry Landrum

- (1) Jean Marie Landrum, m. Lee Edward Tatum
- (2) Barbara Ann Landrum, m. Ervin Earl Hanson
- (3) Robert Lee Landrum, m. Shirley Ann Bergeron
- (4) James Weldon Landrum, m. Edwina Sue Combs

c. Edward Henry Demler, b. May 7, 1914 in Galveston, Galveston County, Texas; m. May 23, 1938 Eleese Hilton in Port Arthur, Texas

- (1) Edward Henry Demler, m. (1) Katharine Anne Hughes; m. (2) Judy Gail Scott
- (2) Patricia Carolyn Demler, m. Gerald Wayne Miller
- (3) Sandra Regina Demler, m. Walter Joseph Carson, III
- (4) Roy Clifton Demler m. Patricia Jane Liles
- (5) Rockne Henry Demler, m. Rose Marie Dilworth

d. Leroy Andrew Demler, b. Jan. 28, 1915, in Beaumont, Texas; d. Aug. 8, 1944 U. S. Military Hospital at Oldstock, England, buried Beaumont, Texas; never married

e. Frederick Bernard Demler, b. Aug. 20, 1917 in Galveston, Texas; d. Sept. 2, 1986 in Port Arthur, Texas; m. Sept. 1937 Myrtle Estelle Weldon in Port Arthur, Texas

- (1) Jo Ann Demler, m. David Carver

f. Herman Louis Demler, b. Aug. 9, 1921 in Galveston, Texas; m. Feb. 14, 1942 in Port Arthur, Texas; Doris Claire Steib

- (1) Darleen Demler, m. Gene von Dohlen
- (2) Carl Joseph Demler, m. Rebecca Ann Simpson
- (3) Mark Demler, m. Sandra _____

g. George Thomas Demler, b. Feb. 14, 1924 in Beaumont, Texas; d. Mar. 3, 1973 in Port Arthur, Texas, bur. in Beaumont, Texas; m. Nov. 21, 1951 in Beaumont, Texas Rita Jane Henningson

- (1) Rickey Thomas Demler of Beaumont, Texas
- (2) Rodney Lynn Demler of Germany
 - (a) Michael Demler
 - (b) Patrick Demler
- (3) Gregory Allan Demler

6. Laisy (Lizzie) Wilkens, b. Feb. 2, 1897 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 345)

7. Anna Lucie Catherine Wilkens, b. Oct. 23, 1899 (Laf. Ch.: St. John, v. 10, p. 95); d. Abilene, Texas; never married

8. Marguerite Louise Wilkens, b. Feb. 10, 1905 (Laf. Ch.: St. John, v. 10, p. 327); d. July 18, 1983 in Silsbee, Texas, bur. in Beaumont, Texas; m. Frank Lorenz

B. Margaretha Elisabeth Wilkens, b. Mar. 20, 1849 in Lindloh, Emsland, Germany

- 1. Anna Helene, b. Dec. 21, 1883, Dankern, Germany; bt. Dec. 23, 1883 Hebelemeer, Germany; Reared by Margaretha Elizabeth's brother, Bernard Heinrich Wilkens, and his wives

C. Anna Margaretha Wilkens, b. Nov. 22, 1852 in Lindloh, Emsland, Germany; m. _____ Bartling

D. Daughter Wilkens, b. Jan. 11, 1855 in Lindloh, Emsland, Germany; d. Jan. 11, 1855

E. Johann Gerhard Wilkens, b. Sept. 9, 1856 in Lindloh, Emsland, Germany

F. Maria Helena Wilkens, b. Nov. 24, 1859 in Lindloh, Emsland, Germany; d. Aug. 27, 1944, Lafayette, La., m. 1883 Geert Harm Sommer (Gerhard Hermann Sommers), b. Jan. 14, 1856 (on military passport) Jan. 6, 1856 (on tombstone) in Dalen, County of Emmen, Province of Drenthe, Holland (Netherlands); d. May 28, 1934, Lafayette, La.

Note: for full information of her children and other descendants See II, A-H of the Sommers Genealogy in this issue

1. Maria Helena (Lena May) Sommer(s), b. Aug. 16, 1884 in Compascuum, Holland (Netherlands)

2. Anna Margaretha (Maggie, Margaret) Sommer(s), b. Nov. 6, 1886 in Compascuum, Holland (Netherlands)

3. Johan Heinrich Sommer (Henry John Sommers), b. Oct. 6, 1888 in Zwartemeer, County of Emmen, Province of Drenthe, Holland (Netherlands)

4. Maria Catharina Sommer(s), b. Apr. 28, 1890 in Zwartemeer, County of Emmen, Province of Drenthe Holland (Netherlands)

5. Mary (Maria) Josephine Sommer(s) b. Sept. 24, 1893 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 256)

6. Leonce (Leon, Lee) Sommer(s), b. Mar. 7, 1896 (Laf. Ch.: v. 9, p. 316)

7. Anna Elizabeth (Klisa, Betty) Sommer(s), b. Dec. 5, 1897 (Laf. Ch.: v. 10, p. 6)

8. Alfred (Dutch) Sommer(s), b. Mar. 7, 1900 (Laf. Ch.: v. 10, p. 110)

G. Johann Herman Wilkens, b. July 13, 1862 in Lindloh, Emsland, Germany; m. Thecla Newmann (?) Althaven

H. Anna Catherina Wilkens, b. Feb. 2, 1865 in Lindloh, Emsland, Germany

ELABORATE PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR INSTALLATION OF BISHOP J. B. JEANMARD IN CATHEDRAL HERE

*submitted by
Rebecca A. Batiste*

[Editors note: The following introduction is abstracted from an article by the Reverend Jean-Marie Jammes entitled "Lafayette, 1918" which appears in the following book *Cross, Crozier, and Crucible: a volume celebrating the bicentennial of the establishment of a Catholic diocese in Louisiana.*]

Introduction

Jules B. Jeanmard was born in Breaux Bridge on September 26, 1879. He was the son of Jules Jeanmard and Frensis Maria Brown. Young Jeanmard received his elementary education in Breaux Bridge and then entered the preparatory seminary that had recently opened in Pontchartrain, La. He later went to Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, and then returned to New Orleans to complete his theological studies with the Vincentians at St. Stephen's Parish. Jules Jeanmard was ordained in New Orleans on June 10, 1903, by Archbishop Louis Placide Chapelle.

Father Jeanmard's first assignment was that of assistant at St. Louis Cathedral. After Archbishop Chapelle's death in 1905, the Reverend James A. Blenk became archbishop of New Orleans and, in 1906, named Jeanmard as his secretary. For the next decade the two men worked closely together as Archbishop Blenk placed increasing confidence in the abilities of Father Jeanmard.

In November, 1916, Archbishop Blenk appointed Jeanmard Administrator Sede Vacante of the archdiocese. Each bishop must name a worthy priest to serve as administrator of the diocese between the time of the bishop's death and the appointment of his successor. Blenk's choice was Jeanmard.

Archbishop Blenk died of a heart attack on April 20, 1917, and Father Jeanmard became administrator of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. On September 15, 1917, the Apostolic Delegate, John Bonzano, announced to Jeanmard that it was the intention of the Holy See to create a new diocese (the third) in the state of Louisiana in the area of southwest Louisiana. The Delegate suggested that Lafayette might become the episcopal see if the church there was suitable to become a cathedral. In response, Father Jeanmard reported, "the church of Lafayette is quite suitable for a cathedral . . . considered . . . the most beautiful outside of the city of New Orleans."

Father Jeanmard continued to administer the Archdiocese of New Orleans for the remainder of the year 1917, while he awaited the selection of a new archbishop and the naming of the bishop of Lafayette.

On February 4, 1918, the Apostolic Delegate announced the appointment of John W. Shaw, bishop of San Antonio, Texas, to be archbishop of New Orleans. A week later the Delegate informed Jeanmard of the erection of the new Diocese of Lafayette and that the administrator of the Diocese of New Orleans until Archbishop Shaw was installed would also serve at the Diocese of Lafayette.

The official Decree of the Erection of the Diocese of Lafayette was prepared in Latin by Father Jeanmard on May 23, 1918. On June 2, he turned over to the archbishop-designate the acts of administration from April 20, 1917 to June 2. His work as administrator now concluded, Father Jeanmard was ready to return to a more routine clerical life. Such, however, was not to be the case. On July 4, 1918, the Apostolic Delegate informed Jeanmard that he was chosen to be the first bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette.

Father Jeanmard's consecration was scheduled for October 28, 1918, but had to be postponed because of the worldwide influenza epidemic. The date of consecration was finally set for December 8 in St. Louis Cathedral. After the ceremony Bishop Jeanmard set out for his see city to begin his long service as shepherd of his Acadian flock.

*The Establishment Of The Diocese Of Lafayette
Seventy-five Years Ago And The Naming
Of The First Bishop*

[Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on December 5, 1918. The *Attakapas Gazette* is pleased to reprint the article on this seventy-fifth anniversary of the erection of the Diocese of Lafayette.]

Lafayette is all astir making elaborate preparation to do Justice to the greatest event in its history and to most receive its first bishop in the person of one of its own sons the Right Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, D. D., whose consecration will take place on Sunday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the 8th of December. The installation of the Bishop will take place on Thursday, December 12. The Most Reverend J. W. Shaw, D. D., archbishop of New Orleans is to preside.

It is an epoch-making event in the history of Lafayette. The arrival and installation of its first bishop. The significance lies not merely in the tremendous meaning for the present moment. Its effect will be felt throughout the centuries to follow. Bishop J. B. Jeanmard will be the leader. There is a whole army of prelates to follow of the best and noblest amongst men who will grace and adorn the See of Lafayette until end of time. For it is the rarest thing in history for a bishopric in the Catholic Church to be given up or abandoned, only in the case of depopulation or relapse into barbarism. A bishopric is practically established, as long as the church will last, and that is unto the consummation of the world. No wonder therefore that Lafayette will be bright in its festive colors and more so in the intelligent appreciation and celebration of great events for which the progressive city of Southwestern Louisiana is noted.

His Grace, Archbishop J. W. Shaw and his Lordship Bishop J. B. Jeanmard are expected to arrive on No. 7 at 4:15 Wednesday afternoon, December 11. The Diocese in connection with the Congregation of St. John's Cathedral will be represented by delegations and committees to meet

the high dignitaries at the station and the energetic rector, the Very Reverend W. J. Teurlings, has asked the whole congregation to gather at the depot to do honor to the arriving prelates. The Hon. J. P. Colomb is to deliver a few words of welcome in the name of Lafayette and all Southwest Louisiana. The procession along the decorated streets from the railroad to the cathedral promises to be the grandest Lafayette has ever witnessed. At the cathedral, the Hon. C. O. Mouton and His Excellency, Lieut-Governor Fernard Mouton are to deliver a short address of welcome in the name of the diocese and the state respectively. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the beautiful cathedral will conclude the glad ceremonies of Wednesday.

Thursday morning will see the gathering of all the priests of the new diocese at the presbytery, whence the solemn procession will go at 9:30 to St. John's. During the signing by the excellent choir of St. John's of the "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus" (Behold to the High Priest) the procession will proceed to the High Altar where the installation is to take place at Pontifical Mass. Two Deacons of Honor and Deacon and Subdeacon of the Mass are assigned to assist the celebrating pontiff and two Deacons of Honor will be appointed at the throne of the presiding Prelate. Father Keller is to be master of ceremonies. A most beautiful bishopal throne, the offering of St. John's cathedral to Bishop Jeanmard is ready to receive the first bishop of Lafayette. The spacious edifice with a seating capacity of 1256 may prove too small for the interest manifested on all sides in this glorious occasion. City parish and state authorities will occupy places of honor near the sanctuary of the church. The priests will fill the sanctuary itself. Under the direction of Prof. B. J. Thiehl, of St. Charles College, and of the rector. St. John's deserving choir prepares to do justice to the glories of the day. Miss M. Rooney, the talented organist presiding.

St. John's Church dates back to the year 1821 when the Reverend Father Barriere took up his permanent abode in the city then called Vermilionville and inaugurated the parish organization which has continued uninterruptedly to our days. In 1825 the Rev. E. Peyretti directed the parish until 1840. Father P. J. Beauprez stayed only one year and was succeeded by the Reverend J. Billon in 1842. One of the most famous priests in the history of Louisiana the Rev. A. D. Maigret worked with zeal and consuming energy in the years 1842-1853. After his death the parish was administered most successfully by one of the glorious men of Grand Coteau, the Reverend A. de Chaignon S. J. who succumbed to the yellow fever in Washington, La. in 1856. In more recent history we find the names of the great and good Father S. J. Foltier 1856-1864; Father, later Bishop Rouxel 1864-1872; the Rev. Gonellaz, 1872-1881. A never to be forgotten figure is the one of the talented E. Forge who held the reins during the long years of his successful pastorate from 1881 to 1905. He is the one who brought Lafayette to the fore by his zealous labors and fruitful efforts in the amelioration and improvements, gloriously crowned and perfected during the uplifting and strenuous reign of the present incumbent the Very Reverend W. J. Teurlings.

In its infancy the church of St. John's Lafayette comprised all that territory of the present parishes of Lafayette and Vermilion. In the course of its onward march as its influence widened brilliant and most prosperous parishes came to emerge from the mother church: Abbeville, Maurice, Delcambre, Kaplan, Bancker and Gueydan in Vermilion Parish; and Carencro, Youngsville, Scott and Broussard in Lafayette parish. In 1912 when the building of a new church was decided upon, the colored population of Lafayette applied for and obtained permission from the Most Reverend Archbishop, J. H. Blenk of sainted memory, to build a church of their own and a separate parish. Most successfully and joyfully the new church of St. Paul was built under the intelligent leadership of the Very Rev. W. J. Teurlings, in 1912 were administered this parish also until 1914, when the Reverend J. Schmodry was appointed its permanent rector, who was

succeeded by the energetic Father J. Poblescheck, its present pastor.

The magnificent new church, now raised to the dignity of cathedral, a perennial monument to the grand spirit of the Congregation of St. John's was begun 1913. The Most Reverend, Jas. H. Blenk, archbishop of New Orleans laid the cornerstone in the fall of that year and happily completed it in 1916. June the 26th will forever remain a joyful and memorial day in the annals of the history of Lafayette and the new diocese, when the Right Reverend J. M. Laval, Auxillary Bishop of New Orleans blessed and opened the new church for worship amongst the jubilation and plaudits of Clergy and devoted people. In April, Rome chose Lafayette as a new center of religious activity and raised St. John's to the exalted dignity of Cathedral; and on May the 23d the Act of erection of the new diocese was presided over by The Very Reverend J. B. Jeanmard, administration of the archbishop of New Orleans, who now becomes its glorious and revered first Bishop. Lafayette bids him a thousand times welcome. May the Lord spare him for long years to come and may his reign be bright and prosperous.

To Decorate In Honor of New Bishop

(The following article appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on December 10, 1918)

The stores and other places of business will be decorated tomorrow in honor of the coming of Bishop J. B. Jeanmard, the head of the new diocese of Lafayette. Yellow, White and purple are the colors of the Catholic Church for this occasion. The first two are the ones used by the pope and the latter for the bishops.

Joseph Lacoste and Paul Krauss, of the decoration committee, were much pleased with the way they were received and the assurances given that the people as a whole were entering into the spirit of the occasion and would join in welcoming Bishop Jeanmard and Archbishop Shaw to Lafayette.

Mayor Girard issued a proclamation requesting the stores to close from 3:30 to 5:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The chief executive of the city also paid his tribute of respect to the new bishop and the distinguished prelate who will come here with him.

Public request is made again of the people, asking them to form a living line on Jefferson street from the depot to the cathedral. In this way it will be possible for them to see the procession and greet Bishop Jeanmard, whereas, if they crowd at the station, they will see nothing. Benediction of the blessed sacrament will be sung immediately after the procession reaches the sacred edifice.

The program as already announced will be carried out at the station.

Father Teurlings has received further assurances of the coming of many priests and everything points to a noble occasion.

*Bishop J. B. Jeanmard Installed At Most
Impressive Services High Tributes Given to Him*

(This article appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on December 12, 1918)

Right Rev. J. B. Jeanmard, bishop of the new diocese of Lafayette, was installed in St. John's

cathedral this, Thursday morning, at services which took rank with the finest ever in Louisiana.

Following the first ceremony of the occasion, Bishop Jeanmard sung solemn high pontifical mass. Archbishop Shaw, of New Orleans and Bishop Drossaerts, of San Antonio, with more than thirty priests of the diocese were in attendance.

As is customary on such occasions in the church, a procession was formed in the presbytery and marched to the sacred edifice. The magnificent house of worship was packed to the doors.

Very Rev. Father Teurlings, the exceedingly zealous pastor, read the papal bull announcing the selection of Bishop Jeanmard for the new diocese. Following this, he paid tribute of respect, loyalty and fealty to Bishop Jeanmard in the name of the priests of the diocese. Father Teurlings words were from his heart and they were delivered in a most forceful manner.

After the installation Bishop Jeanmard delivered an address which will be cherished by all who had the good fortune to hear it. He addressed himself first to the archbishop and expressed his appreciation for his manifold evidence of esteem and friendship and his wise and prudent counsel. Bishop Jeanmard mentioned the fact that he was the first suffragan bishop installed by Archbishop Shaw. In concluding his words of appreciation to the Metropolitan of New Orleans, the newly installed prelate assisted him of his devotion to duty and his zeal would be evidence of his grateful heart?

Bishop Jeanmard was in fine voice when he turned to address the great gathering. He said it would have been his desire, after having filled the office of administration of the archdiocese for thirteen months following the death of Archdiocese Blenk and the passing away of his own dear parents, to retire to the ranks as a priest working for the salvation of souls, but the Holy Father will otherwise and named him to be bishop of the new diocese of Lafayette. The prelate said he received telegrams, letters and personal visits from clergy and laity assuring them of their loyalty and of their desire to keep him in every way. These offers gave him great comfort, he said, because he realized the importance of the work he was about to undertake, and was conscious of the heavy burdens of a bishop, more especially in a new diocese.

Bishop Jeanmard gave public expression of his satisfaction at the wonderful demonstration accorded him. He thanked the spokesmen who voiced the sentiments of the people in words of welcome to him.

Greater claims on his people have been given to few bishops, for, I am not only a God-appointed bishop but I am one of you, born in this Attakapas section and I am proud of it, said the bishop.

He said it has been his privilege and pleasure to work with the priests over whom he will be the spiritual head for fifteen years, and they know each other very well.

Here the bishop touched a very responsive chord when he referred to the service flag over his head, the stars of which paid tribute to the men who had answered the call of their country. He paid a glowing encomium to the soldiers who died on the sacred soil of France that freedom and democracy might live forever throughout the world.

Bishop Jeanmard said it was especially fitting that men from the city and parish named for Lafayette the great Frenchmen, should fight side by side with France, because it was more than a patriotic duty, it was debt of gratitude, and it was meet and proper that they and the other men in the United States who were fighting for the holy cause of liberty should do their bit.

Rev. Father A. F. Isenberg of Crowley delivered the sermon on the occasion. He, having been a close friend of the bishop for years, and knowing his many sterling qualities was exceptionally well fitted to speak of him. The priest made the point that it was a good omen for the future that the first bishop of Lafayette should be a native born American, because this country

had played such a prominent part in bringing victory to battle torn Europe.

In the course of a very eloquent address, Father Isenberg made some telling points and his discourse was listened to with very close attention. He brought home to the people that it is their duty to obey the church in all matters of a spiritual nature. He expressed the sincere hope that Bishop Jeanmard would have a long and successful reign in the new see. Father Isenberg addressed himself to the archbishop in closing his sermon.

He thanked the head of the diocese for gracing the occasion with his presence and he said the priests and the people were more than happy to him with them.

Archbishop Shaw was brief but strikingly impressive in his remarks. He never talks long but he says a great deal in a very few words. His remarks were greatly appreciated by the bishop and people.

The officers of the mass were:

Deacons of Honor at bishop's throne: Canons J. B. Bogaerts and Jos. Peeters.

Deacons of honor of the celebrant: Cannon M. Brady and the Very Rev. H. Cramers, Dean of Lake Charles.

Deacon of the mass: Rev. A. Doutre. Sub-deacon of the mass: Rev. D. Sarrazin.

Assistant Priest at the Mass the Very Rev. E. Diebold, S. J.

Masters of Ceremonies: the Revs. Ph. Keller and E. Monteillard.

The musical programme rendered by St. John's choir, for the reception and benediction yesterday evening and for the pontifical mass this morning sustained the standards of his talented and devoted organization.

For the reception and benediction these numbers were sung.

Unfold Ye Portolo by Gounod, full choir.

O. Salutaris Solo, Miss Isabelle Mouton.

Tantum Ergo, full choir.

Laudati, full choir.

Before and during the mass the following program was rendered:

Ecce Sacerdos, full choir.

St. Cecillas Messe Salennelle by Gounod.

Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus.

Credo Gregorian chant.

During the offertory Miss Mamie Rooney organist played the Largo of Handel with fine effect.

Miss Annie Dunbar of Grand Coteau assisted in the choir and sang the solo of the Gloria. Her rich soprano voice was heard with great appreciation. Rev. T. H. Bortell, S. J. and Mr. Samuel Roy, S. J. and Mr. William Mulherin, S. J. of Grand Coteau, joined the local singers for the occasion and Prof. Thiel of St. Charles College wielded the baton with fine success.

After mass a banquet was served to the visiting clergy at the Knights of Columbus hall. The occasion was a very pleasing affair and was much enjoyed as one of the social features of the installation program.

Too much praise cannot be given to the manner in which the cathedral was decorated with the flags of the allies and the papal colors. The altar were resplendant with electric lights and candles and it was adorned with camelias and other flowers. There were a number of altar boys present, all of whom showed excellent training.

Among the preist present were: Rev. Emile Diebold, S. J., St. Charles College, Grand Coteau; Rev. Ambrose Fontan, same address; Mr. William Mulherin, S. J. and Mr. Samuel Ray, S. J., same address; Rev. F. J. Danner, C. S. sp., Lafayette; Rev. J. A. Schmodry, C. S. sp., New

Orleans; Rev. J. Peters, St. Martinville; Rev. F. J. Girmaud, Carencro; Rev. J. B. Bogaerts, St. Martinville; Rev. L. Castel, Broussard; Rev. J. M. Detchemendy, Scott; Rev. A. Doutre, Rev. B. G. Durand, Cypremort; Rev. Edmond Dault, Eunice; Rev. P. M. H. Wynhoven, Gretna; Rev. A. F. Roger, Church Point; Rev. J. Roguet, Youngsville; I. R. Bollard, Abbeville; Rev. Charles Devirat, Chataignier; Rev. Fred. Wagemans, S. J., Opelousas; Rev. A. Blanc, St. Cecilia; Rev. J. M. Langlois, New Iberia; Rev. A. Mollo, Arnaudville; Rev. Phil Keller, Lafayette; Very Rev. W. J. Teurlings, Lafayette; Rev. F. Rochard, Breau Bridge; Rev. A. F. Insenberg, Crowley; Rev. Paul Janssens, Washington; Rev. A. Verhoven, Patoutville; Rev. Adrien Van de Brook, Bourg; Rev. J. P. Ferret, Welsh; Rev. F. Rombouts, St. Francisville; Rev. Vincent Prats Baton Rouge; Rev. J. M. LeBerre, Gueydan; Rev. A. Buquet, Iota; Very Rev. H. Cramés, Lake Charles.

Bishop Jeanmard Names Officials of New Diocese

(This article appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on December 14, 1918)

Bishop J. B. Jeanmard announces the following appointments: Very Rev. J. M. Langlois, pastor of the Catholic Church in New Iberia, has the honor of being the first vicar general of the new diocese. This is a very important office and the preist selected ids exceptionally well qualified for his duties.

Very Rev. W. J. Teurlings has been appointed pastor of St. John's Cathedral by the new bishop, Father Teurlings will remain dean of the establishment of the new diocese. Other deans in the See will not be changed, according to a statement made this morning by Bishop Jeanmard to a representative of The Advertiser.

The consultors of the diocese appointed are: Very Rev. Father Teurlings, Very Rev. Canon Peeters; of St. Martinville, Very Rev. Father Rogers, of Church Point; Very Rev. Father J. J. Rousseau, Franklin.

Mt. Carmel Association Host to Bishop J. B. Jeanmard

(This article appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on December 18, 1918)

Bishop Jeanmard was the guest of honor yesterday afternoon at a reception at the convent by the Mt. Carmel Progressive Association. The occasion was very successful and it served to further emphasize the fact that the head of the new diocese is truly among friends who know and love him very dearly for his qualities of mind and heart.

A brief but very pleasing program was rendered in the exhibition hall. The first number was a piano selection by Lorena Miller, Marie Voorhies, Ernestine Landry and Rita Villien. The children did splendidly. Mable Roy in a very clear voice with the bishop in a poem written expecially for the occasion. Then followed another fine piano selection played by: Alice Voorhies, Vivian Barry, Ernestine Landry and Rita Villien, one pianos, Lorena Miller on a triangle and Alice Voorhies and Lucille Primeaux on tambourines.

Anna Daigle delivered another welcome to the bishop. This was written in prose and was most interesting and full of sentiments which were worth cherishing.

The beloved bishop, always at home in any audience, made friends with the little folks

because of the informal manner in which he addressed them. When he had given them a chance to enjoy some wholesome laughter, the prelate directed attention to a more serious side when he urged the boys and girls to pray that God might awaken in their hearts a desire to follow the religious life of a priest or sister. He complimented the Mount Carmel Sisters most highly, making the point that they were especially dear to him because they, like himself, were products of Louisiana. He said it would be a great satisfaction for him to see more schools erected by the members of this order, but there must be vocations answered so that the teaching corps may be supplied.

It marked the first visit made by Bishop Jeanmard to any convent or institution of learning since his elevation to the high office in the church, and the Mount Carmel Sisters, the members of the association and the students appreciated it a great deal.

Sisters Zita, Gertrude, Justine and Genevieve came from the Mt. Carmel Convent in Carencro, to attend the reception.

After the program, Bishop Jeanmard and Very Rev. Father Teurlings were enteretained in the parlor of the convent. The members of the association servd refreshments to the guests and Sisters of Mt. Carmel.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE OPENED ON SATURDAYS

*submitted by
Rebecca A. Batiste*

(This article was taken from *The Daily Advertiser*, December 5, 1918)

At a special meeting of the Parish School Board held this day the following members were present: Pres. J. A. Roy, L. L. Judice, J. B. Dugas, Auguste Simon, E. G. Arceneaux, L. S. Broussard, O. F. Comeau, and Eug. Labbe, absent, D. A. Guilbeau.

A quorum present.

Pres. Roy then stated the object of the mtgng. Which was to definitely determine whether or not the schools throughout the Parish should be opened on Saturdays, that time lost, occasioned by the peidemic influenza, could be make up.

Upon motion of Mr. Dugas and duly seconded, the Board by a vote of four to three decided that it was for the best interests of the children to run the schools on Saturdays until further notice

Mass Meeting on Tuesday to Discuss the Holding of Classes on Saturday

(This article appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on December 9, 1918)

Whether you favor the holding of classes in the public schools on Sturday or not, attend the mass meeting called for tomorrow, Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock in the auditorium of the Lafayette high school. A number of the patrons are behind the public gathering. It is there intention to find out how the sentiment is relative to this vital matter.

The Advertiser takes the position that the School Board should rescind its order calling for the extra class day each week, and it should also allow the full Christmas holidays. The newspaper sincerely trusts that the mass meeting_____ adopt resolutions with the above aims in view. It is a pleasure for The Advertiser to know that its stand in this very important matter has mee with strong support, not only in the city, but the parish as a whole.

Special Meeting of School Board Next Monday Morning to Hear Protest Against Saturday Classes

(This article appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on December 11, 1918)

At the request of Mrs. Crow Girard, chairman of a mass meeting held yesterday afternoon in the Lafayette high school to protest against having classes on Saturday. J. Arthur Roy, president of the School Board has issued a call for a special meeting to be held next Monday morning at

9:30 o'clock at the high school, at which time, Mrs. Crow Girard, ex-officio, Senator J. R. Domengeaux, chairman, F. M. Hamilton and Mrs. J. C. Buchanan, as a committee will present the resolutions adopted at the meeting asking that the patrons and the public be given a hearing on this vital subject.

It can be safely said that few more earnest or representative gatherings has ever been held in Lafayette than the meeting at which the above sentiments were approved by a unanimous vote.

The resolutions and its signers follow:

To the School Board, Lafayette Parish

Mr. J. Arthur Roy, President.

We the undersigned parents, and those interested in child-welfare do most earnestly protest against the recent ruling of your Board in regard to continuing school on Saturdays.

In order that we may place before your own reasons for this protest, we ask that a session of the Board be held during this week and that a committee of citizens (present at this meeting) be given a hearing before the Board.

Resolved, further, that it is the sense of this Mass Meeting that the teachers should be paid in full for time contracted for, disregarding time lost by reason of the recent epidemic of influenza.

(Signed)

Mrs. H. Demanade, Mrs. Auguste V. Labbe, Mrs. J. J. Davidson, Mrs. J. Meyers, Mrs. Louise Chiasson, Mrs. H. K. Ruger, Mrs. F. C. Triay, Mrs. George C. Shows, Mrs. L. L. Judice, Rev. H. W. Rickey, Mrs. J. C. Buchanan, Mrs. Arthur Bonnet, Mrs. Clifton I. Young, Mrs. Joe E. Mouton, Mrs. J. A. Martin, Mrs. J. B. Mouton, Mrs. H. F. Limerick, Mrs. A. A. Morgan, Mrs. Victor Levy, Mrs. E. Schumacher, Mrs. W. M. Jones, Messrs. L. D. Nickerson, G. B. Knapp, Arthur Martin, J. R. Domengeaux, J. O. Herpin, F. M. Hamilton, Rev. W. L. Merrin, Mrs. M. Rosenfield, Mrs. A. R. Veazey, Mrs. H. Jagou, Mrs. F. B. McAllister, Mrs. L. J. Alleman, Mrs. Frank Wilkens, Mrs. J. B. Coumes, Mrs. R. L. Jordan, Mrs. M. D. Dalfreeres, Mrs. Bell Hall, Mrs. N. Trahan, Mrks. F. Suarez, Mrs. M. E. Saucier, Mrs. W. A. LeRosen, Mrs. Crow Girard, Mrs. B. J. Pellerin, Mrs. F. K. Hopkins, Phil J. Reilly.

Mrs. J. J. Davidson opened the meeting and called for nominations for chairman. Mrs. Crow Girard was selected for this important office. Mrs. W. A. LeRosen was elected secretary. There was no doubt in the minds of anyone present that the Saturday class day was most undesirable and this opinion was strengthened after the speakers were heard.

Mrs. J. C. Buchanan, Mrs. B. J. Pellerin, Senator Domengeaux, Mrs. L. H. Judice, Rev. W. H. Rickey, F. M. Hamilton, Irving P. Foote were among those who spoke in a forceful manner in support of the movement to abolish classes on Saturday. They offered many arguments which showed the uselessness of keeping the children in class the extra day, or even part of the day.

City Superintendent Skillman said it was absolutely unnecessary to have classes on Saturday to make up the lost time because of the "flu." He announced that he had worked out a very feasible plan whereby the school work would be done, and what held good in the city of Lafayette, could be done in the parish as a whole.

F. M. Hamilton, who is an experienced school man, said it was perfectly legal to pay the teachers for the time lost. The sense of the meeting was that they should not be made to lose any money if the Saturday classes were abolished.

Mrs. Judice said she learned that of the 265 children enrolled in Scott, 110 were absent last Saturday, 17 went home at noon, 11 had notes asked to be excused at different hours and 3 left school altogether because of the extra class day. The speaker said these figures showed what a demoralizing effect the board's order had in this school. another person present said she had

heard similar reports from several places in the parish.

Mrs. Girard speaking from the chair, said she felt sure that the school board members had the best interests of the parents and children at heart when they voted to have classes on Saturday, but she was certain they would rescind the ruling when they realized the public was in favor of its discontinuance.

Saturday Class Day is Stopped in this Parish

(This article appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on December 16, 1918)

The School Board in special session this, Monday morning, recalled its order relative to having classes on Saturday. The Christmas holidays were named as follows: From December 20 to 29, both days inclusive, classes to be resumed on December 30 and 31, holiday on New Year's day and classes to start again January 2. The matter of making up for the lost time because of the influenza was left entirely in the hands of Supt. Bittle, who was empowered to settle this question.

The above in brief gives the result of the meeting which lasted for more than two hours and were into all of the details concerning the movement to discontinue classes on Saturday. The members of the school board voting to rescind the order were J. A. Roy, L. L. Judice, Auguste Simon, E. C. Arceneaux, Eugene Labbe, D. A. Guilbeau, O. F. Comeaux; J. B. Dugas voted against closing the schools.

The board was unanimous in voting for the Christmas holidays and leaving the matter of making up the lost time to Sup. Bittle. L. S. Broussard was absent from the meeting.

Senator J. R. Domengeaux made a splendid address as chairman of the committee from the mass meeting, composes of: Mrs. Crow Girard, ex-officio, Mrs. J. C. Buchanan, F. M. Hamilton. Seanator Domengeaux and his associates made it clear that the patrons whom they represented were anxious to cooperate with the school board in reaching a conclusion relative to the Saturday school matter. Mrs. Buchanan and Mrs. Girard spoke, as did Mr. Hamilton. Their talks were along similar lines and tendered to show the importance of having only five days of school.

The committee retired and the School Board discussed the question from all angles with the result as already given.

In appreciation of her excellent work as a teacher. Miss Pauline Mizzi, principal at Scott school was given an increase of \$15 per month.

ATTAKAPAS: 50 YEARS AGO

[Editor's note: The following item is from the Lafayette *Daily Advertiser*, March 2, 1943]

PAPER AT ST. MARTINVILLE TO MARK ANNIVERSARY

Laizaire E. Bienvenu, veteran printer of this city who celebrated his 69th birthday January 10 will mark another milestone in his career on March 4 when his weekly newspaper, *The Weekly Messenger*, observes its fifty-eighth anniversary.

Founded by the late Albert Bienvenu, the printing and publishing establishment has been operated continuously by Laizaire E. Bienvenu for 59 years. The newspaper which was started a year after the printing plant was opened has been published continuously since that time in the original location in front of the Catholic church.

The original publishing firm included Albert and Laizaire Bienvenu and George Eastin. Albert Bienvenu died in 1930 and Eastin died previous to that time. The paper and printing plant is now in charge of Marcel M. Bienvenu.

Mr. and Mrs. Bienvenu have twelve children, eight daughters and four sons, all of whom are living. Mrs. Bienvenu is the former Leoncia Tertrou, and the children are Louis L. Bienvenu, Reverend Clay A. Bienvenu, Mrs. E. B. Stewman, Ralph R. Bienvenu, Marcel M. Bienvenu, Mrs. Howard Durand, Mrs. Corinne McCoy, Mrs. Pat Patout, Miss Margaret Bienvenu, Miss Claudia Bienvenu, Mrs. Charles Chatagnier, and Miss Anna Belle Bienvenu.

IBERIA CONTEST IN ORATORY

[From the Lafayette *Daily Advertiser*, April 14, 1943]

The annual oratorical contest of the St. Peter's College will take place on April 18, at 8 p. m., in the Mt. Carmel Gymnasium. Three groups each comprising four or five contestants will represent the elementary grades.

They are Joseph Regard, Earl Mannena, Donald Hitter, Robert Desonier, and Elliot Taylor, first and second grades. Alfred Voorhies, Johnny Mac Duhe, Larry Hebert, Sidney LaSalle, and Rene LeBlanc, third, fourth, and fifth grades; C. J. Labauve, Clarence Mestayer, Charles Molbert and Guy Martin, sixth and seventh grades.

Two groups of four contestants each will represent the High School department. In the first group comprising the eighth and ninth grades are Ronald Desonier, Delton Moore, Edward Shea, and Pierre Schwing. In the second group are the Junior and Senior classes. They are Paul Doerle, Julius Bonin, Larry Dietlein, and Smitty Landry.

Music for the occasion will be provided by the St. Peter's College Band under the direction of Brother August.

MESTAYER FAMILY TREE

(LOUISIANA BRANCH)

Compiled by Ray F. Mestayer from the public records of Iberia Parish, Louisiana. The author does not vouch for the authenticity of the information beyond the fact that he made every effort to transcribe the information correctly. The heirship of the descendants of Francois and Ida Mestayer are shown as of about 1957. In those instances where more up to date information was available to the author, the dates have been updated. Corrections and supplements are invited. Editor's note: [Mr. Mestayer died in late 1992.]

FRANCOIS MESTAYER and **IDA MEYER** were married in Plaquemines, Iberville Parish, Louisiana on August 21, 1825.

Of this marriage the following children were born:

1. Charles Mestayer
2. Frederick Mestayer
3. Clara Mestayer
4. Joseph Aristide Mestayer
5. Joseph Gaston Mestayer
6. Marie Therese Emma Mestayer
7. Rosa Mestayer
8. Jules Mestayer
9. Louise Monigul Julia Mestayer
10. Theresa Irma Mestayer
11. Felicite Aurelia Mestayer
12. Adolph (also spelled Adolphe) Francis Mestayer

Francois Mestayer died on February 20, 1872 within the Parish of Iberia where he was domiciled. His succession was opened in the Parish of Iberia.

Ida Meyer, widow of Francois Mestayer, died on February 14, 1883, within the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled.

I

RE: CHARLES MESTAYER, SR.

Charles Mestayer died on or about January 25, 1912 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Charles Mestayer was married but once and then to Aspasia Decuir, by whom he had eight children, namely:

1. Edgar Mestayer
2. Charles Mestayer, Jr.
3. Dorcianne Mestayer

4. Mayer (Meyer) Mestayer
5. Corinne Mestayer
6. Therese Mestayer
7. Fernand J. Mestayer
8. Dennis Mestayer

1. Edgar Mestayer died on or about April 17, 1926 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Edgar Mestayer was married but once and then to Clemence Gondron by whom he had eight children, namely:

- a) Laurence Mestayer
- b) Willie Mestayer
- c) Alfred Mestayer
- d) Louise Mestayer
- e) Leona Mestayer
- f) May Mestayer
- g) Stanley Mestayer
- h) Sarah Mestayer

a). Laurence Mestayer, died on or about February 15, 1936, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Laurence Mestayer was married but once and then to Didier Gonsoulin, by whom she had four children, namely:

- 1) Earl Gonsoulin
- 2) Alton Gonsoulin
- 3) Evelyn Gonsoulin, widow of Maurice Provost
- 4) Irene Gonsoulin, wife of Alvin Decuir

b) Willie Mestayer died on or about August 21, 1949 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Willie Mestayer was married but once and then to Stella Broussard by whom two children were born, namely: Margaret Mestayer, wife of Dan Blue and Joseph Mestayer, who died on or about September 17, 1945 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled leaving as his sole heir Marcelline Mestayer.

c) Alfred Mestayer died on or about January 28, 1945, without issue, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled.

d) Louise Mestayer died on or about October 14, 1972, without issue, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana, where she was domiciled.

e) Leona Mestayer died on or about October 20, 1957, without issue, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana, where she was domiciled.

f) May Mestayer died on or about November 3, 1963, without issue, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana, where she was domiciled.

g) Stanley Mestayer died on July 16, 1961. He was married but once and then to Angelle Dugas, who died on December 6, 1969. They were the parents of three children, namely: Lovere Mestayer, Thomas Mestayer and Charles E. Mestayer.

h) Sarah Mestayer died on or about January 26, 1973, without issue, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana, where she was domiciled.

2. Charles Mestayer, Jr. died on or about September 12, 1932, without issue, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled.

3. DorciAnne Mestayer died on or about June 4, 1942 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. DorciAnne Mestayer was married but once and then to Louis Angers by whom no children were born.

4. Mayer Mestayer died on or about May 29, 1942 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Mayer Mestayer was married but once and then to Regina Flory, by whom he had seven children, namely:

- a) Henrietta Mestayer
- b) Jeanne Mestayer, wife of James Marin
- c) Gaston Mestayer
- d) Regina Mestayer, wife of Charles Carroll
- e) Therese Mestayer, wife of Charles Bassin
- f) Rene Mestayer
- g) Mayer Mestayer, Jr.

c). Gaston Mestayer died on or about April 21, 1946 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Gaston Mestayer was married but once and then to Helen DeBlanc, by whom he had nine children:

- 1) Dainel Mestayer
- 2) George Mestayer
- 3) Mary Louise Mestayer, wife of G. B. Louviere
- 4) Helen Mestayer
- 5) Tullie Mestayer, wife of Dick Fumey
- 6) Gaston Mestayer, Jr.
- 7) Francis Mestayer
- 8) Rita Mestayer
- 9) Van Mestayer

5. **Corinne Mestayer** was married but once and then to Oscar Darby. Corinne Mestayer Darby died in the year 1922 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana, where she was domiciled and without issue.

6. **Marie Therese Mestayer** died in about the year 1897 in the Parish of Iberia where she was domiciled. She was married but once and then to John H. Walet by whom she had eight children, namely:

- a) John D. Walet
- b) Plenny Walet
- c) Alice Walet
- d) Lelia Walet
- e) Junius Walet
- f) Cecile Walet
- g) Louis Walet
- h) Perry Walet

a) John D. Walet died on or about August 7, 1917 in the Parish of Iberia where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Lydia Gonsoulin by whom he had three children:

- 1) Charles Walet who died in 1918 without having ever been married and without issue;
- 2) Joseph Walet
- 3) Louis Walet.

b) Plenny Walet died on or about December 5, 1937 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Delia Gonsoulin, a resident of the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana by whom he had six children:

- 1) Howard Walet
- 2) Lillian Walet
- 3) Rita Walet
- 4) Maude Walet
- 5) Merlin Walet
- 6) Theresa Walet

g) Louis Walet died in 1918 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Louis Walet was married but once and then to Mathilde Renoudet by whom one child was born, namely Louis Walet, Jr. Louis Walet, Jr. died in 1923, without issue, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled.

h). Perry Walet died in July, 1946, without issue, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Perry Walet was married but once and then to Gertrude Shaw.

7. Fernand J. Mestayer died on June 16, 1946 in Iberia Parish, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Fernand J. Mestayer was married once and then to Alzire Broussard who died on March 21, 1941. Of this marriage, nine children were born, namely:

- a. Pauline Mestayer
- b. Beraud Mestayer
- c. Otto J. Mestayer
- d. Nita Mestayer
- e. O'Neil Mestayer
- f. Edna Mestayer
- g. Aline Mestayer
- h. Camille Mestayer
- i. Annette Mestayer

a. Pauline Mestayer died in infancy, without issue.

b. Beraud Mestayer, who died at sea on April 8, 1942, but who was domiciled at the time in New Orleans, Louisiana; he was married twice, first to May Aycock from whom he was divorced but by whom he had no children; and then on March 10, 1929 to Betty Richardson Gleason by whom he had one child, Beraud Mestayer, Jr.;

c. Otto J. Mestayer, who died on December 4, 1957 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Otto J. Mestayer was married but once and then on February 8, 1919 to Eunice Oubre, who died on May 7, 1977, and of this marriage two children were born, namely:

- 1) Irion O. Mestayer
- 2) Ray F. Mestayer

Irion O. Mestayer was married to Wanda Becnel, and of this marriage five children were born, namely:

- a) Marsha Mestayer, wife of William Boutte
- b) Laurie Mestayer, wife of Danny Cook
- c) Terrie Mestayer, wife of Mack Parker
- d) Connie Mestayer, wife of Larry Barrios
- e) Chris Mestayer

Ray F. Mestayer was married to Louise McDonald, and of this marriage seven children were born, namely.

- a) Mac Donald Mestayer
- b) Michelle Mestayer, wife of Gerald de Launay
- c) Stephen F. Mestayer
- d) Michael J. Mestayer
- e) Charles R. Mestayer
- f) Patrick J. Mestayer
- g) Colleen L. Mestayer, wife of Gary Tharp

f) Patrick J. Mestayer was married but once and then to Sarah (Sally) Pedrick and of this marriage two children were born, namely:

- i.) Kristin Mestayer
- ii.) Sarah Mestayer

Patrick J. Mestayer and Kristin Mestayer died on August 23, 1986.

d. Nita Mestayer, wife of Frank Bertrand. They were married on June 10, 1919. Nita Mestayer died on October 7, 1979 and Frank Bertrand died on June 24, 1979. They were residents of St. Charles Parish and were the parents of four children, namely:

- 1) Leroy Bertrand
- 2) Lucille Bertrand
- 3) Cecile Bertrand, wife of Thomas Cheramie
- 4) Camille Bertrand, wife of James P. Hutchins

2) Lucille Bertrand was married to Charles Ray Blair. She died on November 7, 1972 in Bardsville, Kentucky where she was domiciled. Of this marriage, eight children were born, namely:

- a) Charlene Blair
- b) Michael Blair
- c) Mary Lynn Blair
- d) Frank Blair
- e) Charles Kevin Blair
- f) Patrick Blair
- g) Brian Blair
- h) Christopher Blair

e. O'Neil Mestayer, who died on September 8, 1942 in Veteran's Hospital in Alexandria, but who was domiciled in New Iberia at the time, was married once and then on March 4, 1930 to Edna Gonsoulin by whom he had three children, namely:

- 1) Patricia Mestayer
- 2) Owney Mestayer
- 3) Kenneth Mestayer

f. Edna Mestayer, wife of Louis Bertrand, a resident of the State of Texas; Edna Mestayer died on February 27, 1967 and Louis Bertrand died on March 26, 1967. They were the parents of only one child, Carmen Bertrand, who was married to Delmas Christian.

g. Aline Mestayer, wife of Oscar Nelson, a resident of the Parish of Iberia. Aline Mestayer died, without issue, on December 7, 1987. Oscar Nelson died, without issue, on September 19, 1985.

h. Camille Mestayer died in infancy, without issue.

i. Annette Mestayer, married first to Enoch Savoy, from whom she was divorced, and married a second time to Joseph A. Boutte. Of her first marriage, the following children were born, namely; Leatrice Savoy Bonin and Suelllyn Savoy Burnham. She had no children from her second marriage.

8. Denis Mestayer died on or about November 21, 1923 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Denis Mestayer was married twice, first to Ella Bourgeois who died on or about September 15, 1906 and then to Leah Gaspard in about the year 1914. By his first marriage, Denis Mestayer had eight children, namely:

- a. Sidney Mestayer
- b. Edouard Mestayer
- c. Raoul Mestayer
- d. Denis Mestayer
- e. Corinne Mestayer
- f. Louis Mestayer
- g. Stella Mestayer
- h. Bertain Mestayer

and by his second marriage, Denis Mestayer had three children, namely:

- i. Sanders Joseph Mestayer
- j. Mabel Mestayer Brassfield
- k. Cecille Mestayer Aucoin

a. Sidney Mestayer died on or about May 22, 1928, unmarried and without issue in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled.

II

RE: FREDERICK MESTAYER

Frederick Mestayer died on August 11, 1867 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Frederick Mestayer was married but once and then to Philomen Dugas, by whom he had seven children, namely:

1. Ida Mestayer
2. Albert Mestayer
3. Norbert Mestayer
4. Carlos Mestayer
5. Felix Mestayer
6. Henry Mestayer
7. Felecie Mestayer

1. Ida Mestayer DeBlanc died May 12, 1909 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Ida Mestayer was married but once and then to Leopold DeBlanc, by whom she had eleven children, namely:

- a. Louis P. DeBlanc
- b. Marie DeBlanc, widow of Gabe Landry
- c. Aline DeBlanc
- d. Marie L. Alco DeBlanc, wife of Marshall Lemoine
- e. Thomas C. DeBlanc
- f. Frederick DeBlanc
- g. Sophie DeBlanc, wife of Oscar Robin
- h. Edmee DeBlanc, widow of Charles DeJean
- i. Stella DeBlanc, wife of Xavier LaSalle
- J. Elizabeth DeBlanc, wife of Houston Pellerin;
- k. Felicie DeBlanc

a. Louis P. DeBlanc died on or about June 24, 1952 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married twice, first to Laurence Comeaux, by whom he had six children, namely:

- 1). Edward DeBlanc
- 2). Paul DeBlanc
- 3). Lawrence DeBlanc
- 4). Aline DeBlanc
- 5). James C. DeBlanc
- 6). Leo J. DeBlanc

and the second time to Lula Wolf, by whom he had no children.

e. Thomas C. DeBlanc died on or about July 19, 1949 in the Parish of Iberia where he was domiciled. Thomas C. DeBlanc was married but once and then to Dahlia Guth by whom he had two children, namely:

- 1) Mildred DeBlanc, wife of Robert Curtis
- 2) Richard C. DeBlanc.

k. Felicie DeBlanc died about May 5, 1916 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Felicie DeBlanc was married but once and then to Sidney deBellevue by whom she had one child, namely, Inez deBellevue, wife of Wilmer Shaw.

2. Albert Mestayer died on or about October 25, 1919 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Albert Mestayer was married but once and then to Edmee Walet by whom he had five children, namely:

- a. Eugene Mestayer
- b. Martha Mestayer
- c. Oswald Mestayer
- d. Clarence A. Mestayer
- e. Edmee Mestayer

a. Eugene Mestayer died on or about November 26, 1937 in the Parish of Iberia, where he was domiciled. Eugene Mestayer was married but once and then to Anastasia Bonin, by whom he had five children, namely:

- 1) Alberta Mestayer, wife of Ernest Nereaux
- 2) John Mestayer
- 3) Elizabeth Mestayer, wife of Grover Trammell, Jr.
- 4) Eugene Mestayer
- 5) James Mestayer

3. Norbert Mestayer died in 1892 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Norbert Mestayer was married but once and then to Betty Angers, by whom he had four children, namely:

- a. Norbert E. Mestayer
- b. Don Mestayer
- c. Anita Mestayer, wife of Arthur Justin Schexnayder
- d. Percy Mestayer

a. Norbert E. Mestayer died on or about May 10, 1952 in the State of Texas where he was domiciled. Norbert E. Mestayer was married but once and then to Florence French by whom he had two children, namely:

- 1) Mabel Mestayer, wife of Hamilton
- 2) Marjorie Mestayer.

b. Don Mestayer died in about 1952 in the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Don Mestayer was married but once and then to Pascafine Lopland by whom no children were born.

c. Anita Mestayer, wife of Arthur Justin Schexnayder died on April 6, 1970 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana. She was married but once, and then to Arthur Justin Schexnayder by whom she had two children, namely:

- 1) Arthur L. Schexnayder
- 2) Gordon Allen Schexnayder

d. Percy Mestayer died in the Parish of Vermilion, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Percy Mestayer was married but once and then to Norma Summers by whom he had three children, namely:

- 1) Rose Marie Mestayer
- 2) Dolores Mestayer
- 3) Lorraine Mestayer

4. Carlos Mestayer died on or about April 7, 1930 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Carlos Mestayer was married but once and then to Lodoiska Smith by whom he had five children, namely:

- a. Leonard H. Mestayer
- b. Camille Mestayer, widow of George Curtis
- c. Lodoiska Mestayer
- d. Ann Mestayer, wife of Edward Gable
- e. Alma Mestayer, widow of Eugene Tharpe

5. Felix Mestayer died intestate on or about November 25, 1914 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Felix Mestayer was married but once and then to Louise Delhommer by whom he had five children, namely:

- a. Anna Mestayer, wife of J. E. Broussard
- b. Felix Mestayer
- c. Almede Mestayer, widow by first marriage of Thomas Johnson, Sr. and deceased wife by second marriage of C. F. Van Zandt
- d. Ethel Mestayer, wife of F. C. Quirk
- e. Rose Juanita Mestayer, wife of Sidney J. Patout

c. Almede Mestayer Johnson Van Zandt died on or about April 4, 1944 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Almede Mestayer was married twice, the first to Thomas Johnson, Sr., who died about 1927 and by

whom she had one child, namely, Thomas Johnson, Jr., a resident of the State of Texas; her second marriage was to C. E. Van Zandt by whom she had no children.

d. Ethel Mestayer, wife of F. C. Quirk died on or about November 19, 1934 in the Parish of St. Landry, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Ethel Mestayer Quirk was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had five children namely:

- 1). Ethelyn Quirk, wife of Claude C. Ratcliffe
- 2). Louis F. Quirk
- 3). Frederick C. Quirk
- 4). Charlotte L. Quirk, wife of Raymond Allen
- 5). Marguerite Quirk, wife of James Lightfoot

1) Ethelyn Quirk wife of Claude C. Ratcliffe, died on or about December 26, 1939 in the Parish of Calcasieu, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Ethelyn Quirk Ratcliffe was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had one child, namely, Claude C. Ratcliffe, Jr., now known as Claude C. Lightfoot and a resident of the State of Rhode Island.

2) Louis F. Quirk died on or about April 17, 1943 in the State of Washington where he was domiciled. Louis F. Quirk was married but once and then to Lucille Mertha by whom he had one child, namely: Frederick Milton Quirk, a resident of the State of Washington.

3) Frederick C. Quirk died intestate on or about September 20, 1948 in the State of Georgia where he was domiciled. Frederick C. Quirk, Jr. was married but once and then to Clara Harwell by whom he had two children, namely: 1) Frederick Charles Quirk, Jr. and 2) Mark Andrew Quirk.

6. Henry Mestayer died on or about _____ in the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Henry Mestayer was married but once and then to Marie Richard whom he had six children, namely:

- a. Richard F. Mestayer
- b. Lillian Mestayer
- c. Carmen Mestayer
- d. Marie Louise Mestayer, widow of Louis DeGruy
- e. Roland Mestayer
- f. Aspasia Mestayer

f. Aspasie Mestayer, died without issue on or about June 12, 1885 in the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana where she was domiciled.

7. Felicie Mestayer, wife of Joseph Muller, died on or about November 8, 1946 in the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Felicie Mestayer Muller was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had seven children, namely:

- a. Alfred Muller
- b. Anthony Muller
- c. Guy Muller
- d. Earl Muller
- e. Henry L. Muller
- f. Ida Muller
- g. Ethel May Muller McCabe

a. Alfred Muller died on or about August 7, 1942 in the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Alfred Muller was married but once and then to _____ by whom he had four children, namely:

- 1) Alfred Muller, Jr.
- 2) Henry Lloyd Muller
- 3) Ethel May Muller, wife of Henry Schlortz
- 4) Mildred Muller Shirer

c. Guy Muller died on or about July 16, 1950 in the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Guy Muller was married but once and then to Leonie Walphern by whom he had two children, namely:

- 1) Marien Muller Copeland
- 2) Grace Muller Flanagan

III

RE: CLARA MESTAYER, WIFE OF MAXIMILLIAN DECUIR

Clara Mestayer, wife of Maximillian Decuir, died on or about December 5, 1891, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana. Clara Mestayer Decuir was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had seven children, namely:

1. Ernest Decuir
2. Cherie Decuir
3. Frederick Decuir
4. Marie Decuir, widow of Harry Simpson
5. Elisa Decuir

6. Henry Decuir

7. Ida Decuir

1. Ernest Decuir died on or about November 4, 1946 in the Parish of _____ where he was domiciled. Ernest Decuir was married but once and then to Clavinia Henry by whom he had nine children, namely:

- a. Emile Decuir
- b. Laurence Decuir
- c. Lawrence Decuir
- d. Jules Decuir
- e. Marie Decuir, wife of Shelby Reed
- f. Cedile Decuir, wife of Jack Leger
- g. Frank Decuir
- h. Annette Decuir, deceased wife of Alcide Broussard
- i. Sully Decuir

a. Emile Decuir died without issue in April, 1917 in the Parish of Iberia where he was domiciled.

h. Annette Decuir, deceased wife of Alcide Broussard, died about 1936 in the State of Texas where she was domiciled; she was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had two children, namely:

- 1) Otto Broussard
- 2) Gertrude Broussard Blanchard

i. Sully Decuir died, without issue, about 1917 the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled.

2. Cherie Decuir died on or about _____ in the Parish of _____ where he was domiciled. Cherie Decuir was married but once and then to Josephine Aucoin Lessard by whom he had four children, namely:

- a. Jeanne Decuir, wife of Frank Malet
- b. Charles Decuir
- c. Amaie Decuir, wife of Whitney Oubre
- d. Clara Decuir, wife of Fred Jones

5. Elisa Decuir, wife of John O'Brien died on or about January 30, 1948 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Eliska Decuir O'Brien was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had nine children, namely:

- a. Clara O'Brien, widow of Adam Breaux
- b. Canton O'Brien
- c. George O'Brien

- d. Annette O'Brien
- e. William O'Brien
- f. Stanley O'Brien
- g. Ida O'Brien, wife of Emile Bouny
- h. Lee O'Brien
- i. John O'Brien

b. Canton O'Brien died, without issue, on or about May 13, 1950, in the State of Texas where he was domiciled.

d. Annette O'Brien, a femme sole, died without issue, on or about February 6, 1949 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled.

i. John O'Brien died on or about January 11, 1931 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. John O'Brien was married but once and then to Amelia Prince by whom he had two children, namely:

- 1) Rita O'Brien Folse
- 2) Nedra O'Brien Doumit

6. Henry Decuir died on or about July 3, 1941 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Henry Decuir was married but once and then to Ophella Perrelleu, by whom he had five children, namely:

- a. Antoinette Decuir, wife of Chester Haycock
- b. Aline Decuir, wife of Frederick Delaune
- c. Rita Decuir, wife of Jack Fruge
- d. George Decuir
- e. Gaston Decuir

7. Ida Decuir, wife of Aristide Decuir died on or about October 14, 1929 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Ida Decuir Decuir was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had nine children, namely:

- a. Lucien Decuir
- b. Louis Decuir
- c. Wilton Decuir
- d. Whitney Decuir
- e. Cherie Decuir
- f. Milton Decuir
- g. Agnes Decuir, widow of Clet Provost
- h. Valerie Decuir, wife of Ben Lissard
- i. Ada Decuir, deceased wife of Julius Bertrand

i. Ada Decuir, wife of Julius Bertrand died in the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Ada Decuir Bertrand was married but once then to

her said husband by whom she had one child, namely: Rena Bertrand, wife of Ramon Munez, a resident of the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana.

IV

RE: JOSEPH ARISTIDE MESTAYER

Joseph Aristide Mestayer died on or about September 5, 1867 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Joseph Aristide Mestayer was married but once and then to Edmonia Dugas by whom he had one child, namely: Aristide Mestayer.

1. **Aristide Mestayer** died, without issue, on or about March 8, 1905 in the Parish of St. Landry, Louisiana where he was domiciled.
2. **Edmonia Dugas Mestayer** died on or about October 1, 1925 in the Parish of St. Landry, Louisiana where she was domiciled.

V

RE: JOSEPH GASTON MESTAYER

Joseph Gaston Mestayer died on or about May 2, 1883 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Joseph Gaston Mestayer was married but once and then to Aglae Hebert by whom he had one child, namely, Frank Mestayer.

1. **Frank Mestayer** died, without issue, on or about November 15, 1914 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled.
2. **Aglae Hebert**, widow of Joseph Gaston Mestayer died, without further issue, on or about May 29, 1929, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled.

VI

RE: MARIE THERESE EMMA MESTAYER, DECEASED WIFE OF PELTIER DE LA HOUSSAYE

Marie Therese Emma Mestayer, wife of Peltier Delahoussaye, died on or about April 8, 1903 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. She was married but once and then to her said husband, by whom she had six children namely:

1. Louis B. Delahoussaye
2. Rene F. Delahoussaye
3. August Delahoussaye

4. Blanche Delahoussaye, widow of Ernest H. Darby
5. Eve Delahoussaye, deceased wife of James Martin, Sr.
6. Louise Delahoussaye, widow of John Davenport

2. **Rene F. Delahoussaye** died on or about October 23, 1935 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Lelita Bayard by whom he had four children, namely:

- a. Walter R. Delahoussaye
- b. Emma Delahoussaye, wife of Paul Doerte
- c. Clarence Delahoussaye
- d. Junius Delahoussaye

c. Clarence Delahoussaye died, without issue, in 1918 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled.

d. Junius Delahoussaye died in 1918, without issue, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled.

3. **August Delahoussaye** died on or about June 20, 1930, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Clara delaHoussaye by whom he had six children, namely:

- a. Therese Delahoussaye, wife of Kgno Lemaire
- b. Milton Delahoussaye
- c. August Delahoussaye, Jr.
- d. Marie Delahoussaye, wife of Gauthier Coco
- e. Nadine Delahoussaye, wife of Clarence Chadelau
- f. DeBlanc Delahoussaye

5. **Eva Delahoussaye**, wife of James Marin, Sr., died on or about December 4, 1946 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Eva Delahoussaye Marin was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had six children, namely:

- a. James Marin, Jr.
- b. Lilly Marin, wife of Delano Delcambre
- c. Mione Marin, wife of Valery Laperouse
- d. Isabel Marin, wife of Theodore Minvielle
- e. Rufus Marin
- f. Ruby Marin, wife of Wyatt Rentrop

a. James Marin, Jr. died in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Jeanne Mestayer by whom he had seven children, namely:

- 1). Carmen Marin, widow of Bob Walker

- 2). Charles Marin
- 3). John Marin
- 4). Rolan Marin
- 5). Marguerite Marin, wife of Edouard Angers
- 6). Michael Marin
- 7). Lawrence Marin

e. Rufus Marin died on or about May 28, 1950 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Blanche Mauboules by whom he had three children, namely:

- 1). Rufus Marin, Jr.
- 2). Evelyn Marin
- 3). Lily Marin, wife of Allen Carlsen

VII

RE: ROSA MESTAYER, WIFE OF ZENON DECUIR

Rosa Mestayer, deceased wife of Zenon Decuir died on or about April 29, 1929 in the Parish of Iberia, where she was domiciled. Rosa Mestayer Decuir was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had six children, namely:

1. Louise Decuir, wife of Willie S. Patout
2. Jeanne Zig Decuir
3. Marie Decuir, wife of Edward T. Weeks
4. A. Millington Decuir
5. Lelia Decuir, wife of Thomas Gale
6. Frank G. Decuir

3. Marie Decuir, wife of Edward T. Weeks, died on or about May 31, 1951 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. She was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had four children, namely:

- a. Mildred Weeks, wife of Henry Dauterive
- b. Margaret Weeks, wife of Rivers Wall
- c. Elise Weeks
- d. Edward T. Weeks

d. Edward T. Weeks, II died on or about March 27, 1943 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Edward T. Weeks, II was married but once and then to Edede Patout Weeks (wife by second marriage of John Killen) by whom he had two children, namely:

- 1) Marie Yvonne Weeks

2) Edwards T. Weeks, III

Marie Yvonne Weeks died, without issue on or about February 10, 1952 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled.

5. **Lelia Decuir**, deceased wife of Thomas Gale, died on or about December 23, 1915 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. Lelia Decuir Gale was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had one child, namely, Thomas R. Gayle, Jr.

6. **Frank G. Decuir** died on or about April 24, 1933 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Louise Landry by whom he had three children, namely:

- a. Eugenie Decuir, wife of Tynes Mixon
- b. Alberta Decuir, wife of Verne Thibodaux
- c. Lucille Decuir, wife of Arthur Rouse

VIII

RE: JULES MESTAYER

Jules Mestayer died on or about February 15, 1888 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Silvanie Decuir by whom he had five children, namely:

- 1. Jules Mestayer, Jr.
- 2. Aurella Mestayer, widow of Walter Walet
- 3. Ulger Mestayer
- 4. Laurent Mestayer
- 5. Oscar Mestayer

4. **Laurent Mestayer** died on or about January 2, 1945 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Ameline Durand by whom he had no children. Laurent Mestayer and his said wife adopted one child, namely, Lawrence Mestayer.

5. **Oscar Mestayer** died on or about October 5, 1932 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Noemie Dauterive by whom he had four children, namely:

- a. Mae Mestayer
- b. Vivien Mestayer
- c. Warren Mestayer
- d. Ethel Mestayer, wife of Robert Lawrence

IX

**RE: LOUISE M. JULIA MESTAYER
WIFE OF ADONIS DUPUY**

Louise M. Julia Mestayer, wife of P. Adonis Dupuy, died on or about February 22, 1917 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. She was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had eight children, namely:

1. Sidney Dupuy
2. Louise Dupuy, deceased wife of Frederick G. Young
3. Paul A. Dupuy, Jr.
4. Edward Dupuy
5. Gaston Dupuy
6. Louis Dupuy, Sr.
7. Ida Dupuy
8. James Dupuy

1. Sidney Dupuy died interstate in the year 1915 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Sidney Dupuy was married but once and then to Espasse Broussard by whom he had three children, namely:

- a. Sidney Lee Dupuy
- b. Charlton Dupuy
- c. Kenneth Reed Dupuy

2. Louise Dupuy, wife of Frederick G. Young, died on or about September 30, 1949 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. She was married but once and then to her said husband by whom she had six children, namely:

- a. Clara Young, wife of Whitney Oliver
- b. Edith Young, wife of Arthur A. Lynn
- c. Martha Young, wife of Robert Wright
- d. Frederick G. Young, Jr.
- e. Louise Young, wife of Allen Steel
- f. Clement G. Young

3. Paul A. Dupuy, Jr. died on or about December 26, 1922 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Georgette Boudreaux by whom he had five children, namely:

- a. Laura Dupuy, wife of Maurice Meyer
- b. James Dupuy
- c. Ida Dupuy, wife of John Cagle
- d. Rufus Dupuy

e. Jeanne Dupuy, wife by first marriage to Joseph Bennett and then to Chararian

4. **Edward Dupuy** died, without issue, on or about March 29, 1945 in the Parish of Iberia Louisiana. He was never married.

5. **Gaston Dupuy** died, without issue, on or about November 23, 1923 in Jefferson County, Texas.

6. **Louis Dupuy, Sr.** died in November, 1944, in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Emily Dore, by whom he had four children, namely:

- a. Louis Dupuy, Jr.
- b. Homer Dupuy
- c. Henry Dupuy
- d. Raoul Dutch Dupuy who died in the Parish of Iberia where he was domiciled

and

who was married but once and then to Essie Bouillon by whom he had two children, namely:

- 1) Joyce Dupuy, wife of Louis Cartimiglia
- 2) Ralph Dupuy

7. **Ida Dupuy**, a femme sole, died during 1905 (prior to the death of her said mother), without issue.

8. **James Dupuy** died in the year 1900 (prior to the death of his said mother), without issue.

X

**RE: THERESE IRMA MESTAYER,
WIFE OF JOHN GREIG**

Theresa Irma Mestayer, wife of John Greig died on July 10, 1925 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. John Greig died on or about May 12, 1941 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Theresa Irma Mestayer Greig was married but once and then to John Greig, by whom she had five children, namely:

- 1. William Greig
- 2. Emellie Greig, widow of Laurent Tilly
- 3. Agnes Greig, widow of F. E. Delahoussaye
- 4. Frank Greig
- 5. Marie Greig, wife of W. R. Douglas

1. William Greig was married but once and then to Lucille Delahoussaye, by whom he had no children. William Greig died, without issue, on or about March 24, 1941 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled.

4. Frank Greig died on or about December 5, 1936 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. Frank Greig was never married and had no children.

XI

RE: FELICITE AURELIA MESTAYER, WIFE OF OSCAR DARBY

Felicite Aurelia Mestayer, deceased wife of Oscar Darby, died on or about February 1, 1930 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where she was domiciled. She was married but once and then to Oscar Darby by whom she had two children, namely:

- 1) Claudia Darby, wife of J. Mentor Chaisson
- 2) Adolphe J. Darby

XII

RE: ADOLF FRANCIS MESTAYER

Adolf Francis Mestayer died in the year 1925 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Sarah DeBlanc by whom he had nine children, namely:

1. Frederick R. Mestayer
2. Walter Mestayer
3. George Mestayer
4. Adolph Mestayer, Jr.
5. Agnes Mestayer, wife of Dr. John Evans
6. Rita Mestayer, wife of Gene Heller
7. Lelia Mestayer, wife of Gene Heller
8. Edwin Mestayer
9. Robert Mestayer

7. Lelia Mestayer Heller died on about December 18, 1934 in the Parish of Ouachita, Louisiana where she was domiciled. She was married but once and then to Gene Heller by whom she had three children, namely:

- a. Eugene Heller, Jr.
- b. Hazel Heller, wife of Dayton Smith
- c. Marjorie Heller Mayo

9. **Robert Mestayer** died on or about December 6, 1948 in the Parish of Iberia, Louisiana where he was domiciled. He was married but once and then to Lois Young by whom he had two children: namely:

- a. Robert Mestayer, Jr.
- b. Amelius Y. Mestayer

THE MESTAYER FAMILY

(THE OTTO J. MESTAYER BRANCH)

Compiled by Ray F. Mestayer from research done by him and by Thomas Mestayer. This paper covers the first Mestayer known to the author down to the present members of the author's family.

ELIE MESTAYER. No record of his birth, but we do know that he was a native of Bordeaux, France, and that his son, Guillaume was born in 1718. Elie was married to Elizabeth Marquet. He died before 1753. We have no record of any children other than Guillaume.

GUILLIAME MESTAYER. He was born in 1718 in Bordeaux, France. He married Marie Jeanne Masse on May 28, 1753. They were the parents of twelve children, including Frederic. Guillaume died on December 15, 1781 in Bainet or Jacmel, Santo Domingo.

Marie Jeanne Masse was born in 1726 and died on August 28, 1792. She was the child of Antoine Masse and Marie Madeline Bonneloy, who had been married on April 24, 1710. Antoine was the son of Jean Masse and Anne Petit, and Marie was the daughter of Laurent Bonneloy and Madelin Haumes. Antoine died on October 31, 1738 and Marie died on May 29, 1765. (Note: Just North of Jacmel and Bainet is a town called Masse)

FREDERIC MESTAYER. He was born in Bainet, Santo Domingo on June 13, 1767. On June 9, 1787 he married Marie Monique Macgille. They were the parents of six children including Francois. There is no record of his death and burial, but it occurred about 1809. He had been living in New Orleans, Louisiana, but may have returned to Santo Domingo.

Marie Monique Macgille was born on September 28, 1766 in Jacmel, Santo Domingo, as the child of Jean Baptist Macgille and Margaret Perroneau. Jean Baptiste Macgille was the son of Michel Macgille and Margaret Breau and had been born in the Windward Islands. Margaret Perroneau was the daughter of Louis Perroneau and Madelin Maisonneuve. Louis Perroneau was the son of Nicolas Perroneau, and Madelin Maisonneuve was the daughter of Jean Baptist Maisonneuve. Marie Monique Macgille apparently died in Louisiana, but no record of her death or burial has been found.

FRANCOIS MESTAYER. He was born in Baint, Santo Domingo in about 1803. He was living in New Orleans, Louisiana with his parents at the time of the 1805 census. On August 21, 1825 he married Ida Euphemie Meyer in Plaquemines, Iberville Parish, Louisiana. They were the parents of twelve children, including Charles. Francois died in Iberia Parish, Louisiana on February 29, 1872.

Ida Euphemie Meyer was born on June 1, 1807 as the daughter of Samuel Charles Meyer from Paris, France and Marie Therese Boutte of St. Martinville, Louisiana. She died on February 14, 1883.

CHARLES MESTAYER. He was born on August 18, 1826. On January 13, 1848 he married Aspasie Decuir. They were the parents of eight children, including Fernand. Charles died on January 25, 1912.

FERNAND MESTAYER. He married Alzire Broussard. They were the parents of nine children, including Otto. Fernand died on April 6, 1948.

Alzire Broussard died March 21, 1941. She was the daughter of Alcine Broussard and her mother was a Decuir. She had two brothers, Alphe and Joseph. Her mother remarried after her father's death to Emile Dressel, and they had four children, Otto Dressel, Sylvest Dressel, Emile Dressel and Edward Dressel.

OTTO JOSEPH MESTAYER. He was born in Loreauville, Louisiana on July 28, 1893. He married Eunice Oubre on February 8, 1919. They were the parents of two children, Irion Otto Mestayer who was born on February 20, 1920, and Ray F. Mestayer who was born on November 16, 1924. Otto died on December 4, 1957.

Eunice Oubre was born on September 21, 1894 and was the daughter of Joseph Oubre and Cora Bonin. She was one of nine children. She died on May 7, 1977.

RAY FRANCIS MESTAYER. He was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 16, 1924. He married Louise McDonald on December 9, 1944 in Big Spring, Texas. Louise McDonald was born on January 14, 1924 in Comanche, Texas and was the daughter of Sherwood McDonald and Estelle Roberson. Ray and Louise were the parents of seven children, namely:

a) Mac Donald Mestayer, born October 3, 1947. Married Kathi Schachinger on October 17, 1981. They have no children.

b) Michelle Mestayer, born June 15, 1949. Married Gerald de Launay. They have three children, namely: Andre deLaunay, born October 24, 1973; Nicole deLaunay, born May 13, 1976, and Henri deLaunay, born October 23, 1978.

c) Stephen F. Mestayer, born September 1, 1950. Married Charlotte Ogden on August 11, 1972. They had one child, Jonathan Mestayer, born February 23, 1977. The first marriage ended in divorce. Stephen married Adrienne Escurieux on September 4, 1982.

They have two children, Stephanie Mestayer, born February 29, 1984, and Philip Mestayer born January 5, 1986.

d) Michael J. Mestayer, born January 10, 1952. Married Suzanne Trappey on June 1, 1973. They have two children, Melise Mestayer, born July 1, 1984, and Michael J. Mestayer, Jr. born December 28, 1987

e) Charles R. Mestayer, born January 7, 1955. He is single.

f) Patrick J. Mestayer, born January 19, 1958. Married Sarah (Sally) Pedrick on August 9, 1980. They had two children, Kristin Mestayer, who was born on April 7, 1983, and Sarah Mestayer, who was born on March 28, 1985. Patrick J. Mestayer and Kristin Mestayer died in an automobile accident on August 23, 1986. Sally P. Mestayer married Glenn Campbell on April 16, 1988.

g) Colleen L. Mestayer, born September 12, 1961. Married Gary Tharp on February 2, 1985. They have one child, Allison Tharp, born June 5, 1988.

IRION OTTO MESTAYER. He was born on February 20, 1920. He was married to Wanda Bechel, and of this marriage five children were born, namely:

- a) Marsha Mestayer, wife of William Boutte
- b) Laurie Mestayer, wife of Danny Cook
- c) Terri Mestayer, wife of Mack Parker
- d) Connie Mestayer, wife of Larry Barrios
- e) Chris Mestayer